

Hafa Adai!

Vatican probe of Guam archbishop heads to US. **PAGE 2**
Ex-firefighter gets 2 years, 6 months for sex abuse. **PAGE 3**

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Public School System's federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh presents his report to the Board of Education during their special meeting yesterday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

PSS employees get pay raise

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education approved yesterday a proposal to give salary increases to all Public School System employees—a first in about a decade.

The PSS-initiated proposal seeks to adjust the compensations of entry-level positions of both certified and non-certified employees as well as to increase the wages of older employees.

With the newly-approved proposal, entry-level positions at PSS for certified or non-certified teaching and non-teaching positions would now start at \$16,100, as opposed to the former \$15,000.

The adjustments would take place in fiscal year 2018. The start of the

new fiscal year is Oct. 1, 2017.

The budget for PSS for next fiscal year, which was also approved yesterday, adjusts the total amount from \$51 million to \$54 million to reflect the wage adjustment.

BOE chair Marylou S. Ada, who led the meeting yesterday, believes it is about time to raise the wages of PSS employees.

She said it is also a good way to retain and recruit employees.

"It is about 10 years overdue and the compensation plan really works

The pay raise for PSS employees means an increase of about \$1,000 to \$2,000 across the board.

to the advantage of the [employees] now, so we want to retain them as

well as recruit highly qualified teachers to teach out here in the CNMI," she said.

Ada believes the passage of the adjustment allows the CNMI to be up to par with other school systems when it comes to attracting highly qualified employees to

come out to the CNMI and be employed under PSS.

"We have some vacancies and we want to be competitive, not just here in the Pacific region but in the 50 states as well," she said.

Included in the compensation adjustment is a merit system that rewards employees who widen their

See PSS on Page 4

Mother of 12 perseveres to finish college

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A pre-algebra teacher at Marianas High School has proven the value of resiliency, pushing through extremely tough times to be able to secure not one but two college degrees, while looking after her

12 children.

Ritalina Chipwelong, 44, was born on the island of Chuuk to a poor family and several siblings.

"We were living off of government food packs," recalled Chipwelong.

Chipwelong moved to Saipan in 1980 and attended Oleai Elemen-

tary School, where she got a perfect attendance award each quarter.

Chipwelong then started junior high at Hopwood Junior High School before ultimately making her way to MHS as a sophomore, the year she got pregnant with her firstborn at 18 years old.

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INSIDE



WORLD

The United Nations needs \$4.4 billion to prevent catastrophic hunger.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star.

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LIFE & STYLE

SIS inducts new members to its two honor societies.

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Local



MEDICAL REFERRAL

Taiwan Adventist Hospital representatives visit the House of Representatives yesterday to discuss the CNMI establishing a new medical referral site in Taipei. House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, sixth from left, vice speaker Janet U. Maratita, fifth from left, House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, third from left, and Health Committee chair Rep. Jose I. Itibus welcomed the delegation yesterday at the speaker's conference room on Capitol Hill

JON PEREZ

Vatican abuse probe of Guam archbishop heads to mainland US

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Vatican officials prosecuting Guam's archbishop for alleged sex abuse have moved their investigation from the territory to Hawaii and now the mainland U.S. so



Apuron

they can interview potential witnesses.

But attorney David Lujan, who is representing four people who have accused the archbishop of abuse, said he has instructed his clients not to testify without their lawyer present, which could complicate the investigation.

"No one knows what the procedures are, what the rules are," Lujan said Wednesday, underscoring how the secrecy of the Vatican's canonical trials can conflict with secular legal standards. "The findings are secret, so you never know when it's over."

Guam Archbishop Anthony Apuron faces multiple allegations of sex abuse of altar boys in the 1970s. Apuron has denied the claims

and has not been criminally charged.

American Cardinal Raymond Burke, a top canon lawyer who headed the Vatican's high court until 2014, is presiding over the church trial. He left

Guam on Saturday and had advised victims in Hawaii and Phoenix, Arizona they could offer their testimony this week.

Lujan is representing Apuron's four accusers in their civil litigation against the archbishop and the archdiocese. He said he had sought information about what his clients could expect if they participated in the Vatican's trial, and received no answer.

Lujan said he was told by church officials he couldn't see the court record, and decided not to participate.

Asked if he was concerned that the Vatican investigation might suffer as a result, Lujan said a canonical sanction wasn't his main goal.

"My job is to get redress for my clients," he said.

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

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Guam group tackles sexual harassment on campus

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, a non-profit organization in Guam, met Wednesday with representatives of college campuses on- and off-island to discuss policies and procedures governing on-campus sexual assault.

Executive director Cynthia Cabot said that about 10 campus representatives, including students, attended Day 1 of the two-day meeting.

"We are here to look at policies and procedures that are in place to address sexual assault on campus," said Cabot.

At least four campuses in Guam, two campuses on Saipan, and even campuses in American Samoa, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia are taking part in the awareness activity.

Citing national statistics, Cabot said there is great concern that college-age students,

typically between 18 and 24, are at a higher risk for sexual assault.

"We want to make sure that our campuses are ready and have policies, procedures, and programs in place to support students," said Cabot. "We are recognizing that each college campus is different. Most campuses have a one-liner that encompasses a generic policy that says sexual harassment would not be tolerated. Oftentimes, it is not enough," she said.

Northern Marianas College dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan said that NMC has had its share of reported sexual harassment.

"We have procedures for handling such reports and to adjudicate it, including allowing students to go as far as a hearing on the matter," he said.

Pangelinan also assured that there are policies and procedures in place at NMC, and that NMC's involvement with the GCASAFV is designed to strengthen their policies and procedures, not just to comply

with federal law and regulations but also to address different groups of people in college.

"Policies and procedures that work for different groups in the college, such as staff, faculty, or people who have a contractual relationship with NMC, or even visitors, etc.," said Pangelinan.

"We have a victims' advocate to advocate for victims and to support them in any way they need to be supported," he added.

Northern Marianas Trades Institute director of student development and human resources Victor Mesta said that NMTI's goal is to bring NMTI up to par with the other campuses.

"We are taking a look at developing policies and procedures for protecting our students in the campus. Since [NMTI] is newly developed, we just want to make sure the NMTI is streamlined with everything," he said.

The second day of the meeting was held yesterday at the NMC campus before moving on to the NMTI campus later in the afternoon.

Ex-firefighter Koshiba gets 2 years, 6 months for sexual abuse of minor

A former firefighter facing a charge of sex abuse of a minor pleaded guilty Wednesday and was slapped with the maximum sentence of two years and six months in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered 43-year-old Jerguson Techur Koshiba to serve the prison term without the possibility of parole. Camacho gave Koshiba credit for 174 days of time served.

Koshiba was required to register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry.

Koshiba is a citizen of Palau. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement was informed about Koshiba's case.

Koshiba pleaded guilty to attempted sexual assault in the third degree.

Last Oct. 3, the Office of the Attorney General charged him with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, which carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

The OAG later amended the charge to attempted sexual assault in the third degree, which carries a maximum sentence of two years and six months in prison.

According to the plea deal, Koshiba placed his hand be-

neath the clothing of a 9-year-old girl as she lay asleep on Feb. 26, 2016 on Saipan.

Camacho noted that Koshiba has three prior convictions for assault and battery.

Last Sept. 30, Govendo found Koshiba guilty of disturbing the peace and sentenced him to six months imprisonment, with credit for 218 days of time served.

The judge declared a mistrial on the jury count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He dismissed the charge after finding that the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

The Department of Corrections released Koshiba last Oct. 3, shortly after Govendo ordered his immediate release from custody.

Govendo gave the order because disturbing the peace carries a maximum sentence of six months and Koshiba has been incarcerated since Feb. 27, 2016.

Govendo decided the misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace during the trial.

Camacho signed an arrest warrant against Koshiba last Oct. 3 when the OAG filed the new information charging him with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. Koshiba later surrendered to police. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

BULLYING WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BULLYING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM

that affects kids nationwide, and **ALL ADULTS HAVE A ROLE IN HELPING TO STOP IT.** Here are some of the most revealing statistics behind bullying — and how to detect it and take action.

22% OF STUDENTS AGES 12-18 WERE BULLIED AT SCHOOL DURING THE 2012- 2013 SCHOOL YEAR
Data from the U.S. Department of Education (2015) unless otherwise noted.

THE MANY FORMS OF BULLYING

14%

MADE FUN OF,
called names,
or insulted

13%

Subject of
RUMORS

7%

Had been
CYBERBULLIED

6%

PUSHED
shoved, tripped, spit on

5%

EXCLUDED
from activities

4%

THREATENED
with harm

2%

FORCED
to do things they
didn't want to do

2%

Had property
DESTROYED

BOYS, GIRLS & BULLYING

18%

Girls and boys who said they
had been either bullied, bullied
by others, or both 2-3 times a
month or more.

Luxenberg, Limber & Olweus (2014)

**EXPERIENCE
SIMILAR
RATES OF:**

Threats
Being forced to do
things they didn't
want to do
Damage to property

**MORE
LIKELY TO
EXPERIENCE:**

Physical
bullying

**MORE
LIKELY TO
EXPERIENCE:**

Verbal bullying
Rumor-spreading
Exclusion
Cyber-bullying

Boys are typically bullied by boys, while girls are bullied by both boys & girls. — U.S. Department of Justice (2014)

MOST STUDIES FIND THAT
BOYS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN
GIRLS TO BULLY THEIR PEERS.
ON AVERAGE, BOYS ARE:

1.7x
as likely to bully

2.5x
as likely to bully
as well as be bullied

Cook, et al. (2010)

THE IMPACT

KIDS WHO ARE BULLIED ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP:

Depression
Anxiety Panic disorder
Low self-esteem
Psychosomatic problems such as headaches,
stomach aches, sleep problems, and poor
appetite
School avoidance and lower academic
achievement
Later problems with alcohol and other drugs



Remember to always be aware of
the warning signs and if someone
you know is in suicidal crisis or
emotional distress,
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KIDS WHO BULLY OTHERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

Become involved in later antisocial and
criminal behavior
Sexually harass others
Kids who bully others and also are
bullied may experience worst outcomes.

Espelage et al. (2012); Sourander et al. (2007);
Ttofi et al. (2011b)

BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER!

Many times, when kids see bullying, they may not know what to do to stop it. Youth who witness bullying or are being bullied should always tell a trusted adult. Adults: When you learn that bullying is happening, take action to stop it.



For more information, visit

STOPBULLYING.GOV

to learn how to be More Than A Bystander and what you can do
to address bullying in your community.



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Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

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Senate resolution honors late mayor

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Condolences continue to pour in for the family of the late Northern Islands mayor Jerome K. Aldan, who died last Saturday.

The 43-year-old Aldan was honored by the Senate in Senate Resolution 20-2 that was adopted in yesterday's session at the Senate chamber.

SR 20-2 expresses the Senate's condolences to the Aldan family—mother Clo-

tilde Litulumar Kaipat-Aldan, common-law spouse Norma Joyleen Lisua Olopai, and their kids Zachary, Celeng Leilany, Zasha Jerlissa, Zavanah Mertilde, and Zodeanna Faith.

Senate President Arnold

I. Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced the resolution.

"The 20th [CNMI] Senate pauses to pay tribute to a man who served the people of the Commonwealth and the Northern Islands with so much humility and passion, and wishes to

express that the CNMI will forever miss our beloved brother," states part of SR 20-2.

"He was truly a fierce leader and fought tirelessly for the interests of the people of the Northern Islands at a time of tense U.S. military negotiations regarding the proposed plan to bomb Pagan. [Aldan] was an inspiring individual with sincere humility and great compassion to everyone he encountered and will be forever known as a true champion of the people of the [CNMI]."

State funeral

The Office of the Governor also released a memorandum to all department and agency heads to allow their non-

critical employees to take an administrative leave on Monday, Feb. 27, from 7:30am to 12:30pm to attend the memorial service for the late Northern Islands mayor.

His remains will lie in state at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center with the memorial service to start at 9am. A Mass will be held at 11am at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral while the state funeral will be held at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is encouraging all non-critical employees, and their respective department and agency heads to attend the events in honoring the life and legacy left behind by Aldan.

Tinian festival draws over a hundred participants



Serving as the major sponsor of the 2017 Tinian Pika Festival, IT&E Prepaid product manager Natasha Tomokane, IT&E chief operating officer John Compton, and MVA's Martin Duenas and Ray Villagomez receive \$4,000 in cash and in-kind donation of cellphone, accessories and free 4G LTE service. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Serving as the exclusive sponsor to the 2017 Tinian Pika Festival under the Marianas Visitor's Authority, IT&E provided numerous promotional items at their spin-wheel booth this past weekend.

Chief operating officer John Compton said that promoting and celebrating local culture and flavors is key to enhancing the Marianas.

"We are very proud to take part in the Pika Festival and express our sincere gratitude to the hospitality of the people of Tinian. IT&E plans to continue this momentum, not only as a telecommunications company, but also as part of the Marianas Island chain family. We look for-

ward to many more upcoming events," he said.

According to IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Sole-dad, the Pika Festival is a signature event that has been growing in popularity.

"The community always looks forward to these festivities and we commend the hard work and collaboration of MVA and the Tinian Mayor's Office. Giving back to the community and increasing our capacity as a local company still remains strong and we hope these events continue to grow as we nurture and encourage culture, tourism, and innovation," she said.

MVA managing director

Chris Concepcion noted the success of the 2017 Pika Festival despite the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and limited resources.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is grateful to IT&E for their generous support of the 13th annual Tinian Pika Festival held last weekend. Their contribution to the tourism industry is sincerely appreciated. Aside from the cash donation, raffle prizes and T-shirt giveaways, IT&E also had their staff on hand on Tinian to help the MVA team ensure the Pika Fest was smooth and successful. We extend our thanks to their entire team for their partnership," Concepcion said.

Currently, IT&E is investing millions of dollars in both its buried cable and wireless networks to provide improved internet speeds and better overall service. These improvements include laying buried fiber optic cables around the island, connecting all cellular sites to this fiber optic network, and expanding the 4G/LTE capabilities of its wireless networks.

IT&E invested over \$6 million in the CNMI in 2016 and has the plans to spend at least the same amount in 2017. Plans for the islands of Tinian and Rota are being set in motion to improve interisland coverage. (IT&E)

MOTHER

From Page 1

In 2004, Chipwelong gave birth to her seventh child. That got her thinking how she would support her children.

Chipwelong reentered the educational system through the Northern Marianas College's General Education Development program.

"In those years, starting out with the GED, it was really tough. I was not educated for about 13 years, so it was really hard to start from the beginning," said Chipwelong.

"I started from the bottom. I was most challenged with writing essays," recalled Chipwelong.

Despite having numerous children to take care of, Chipwelong persevered and eventually got her GED diploma in 2007.

Yet Chipwelong felt that

wasn't enough.

She strove for an associate degree in liberal arts at NMC soon after receiving her GED.

"From there on, being a college student without having future plans, I just wanted to try out college. I started to think that when I was in school, I thought of being a teacher," she said.

While Chipwelong was at NMC, her mother helped her look after her children. Chipwelong's mother did not inform her that she was diagnosed with cancer so that Chipwelong could focus on her degree.

"My mom did not show she was in pain and that she was not feeling well. She would just say she was okay and pushed me to finish my schooling. Her help got me through college," said Chipwelong.

Chipwelong got her AA degree just before her mother

passed away.

"I almost gave up on my education degree because she supported me and watched after my kids," she said.

Chipwelong used the memory of her mother as an inspiration to obtain her bachelor's degree in education, which she obtained in 2014.

"When I think back at her suffering and still watching after my kids, I almost gave up. But then I thought she was always giving me all her time and help, why waste it?"

"She constantly reminded me that through education, you will be able to secure your future," said Chipwelong.

Chipwelong immediately used her two degrees to apply for her first Public School System teaching job at Kagman High School. After two years of teaching at KHS, Chipwelong transferred to MHS, where she is currently the pre-Algebra teacher.

Chipwelong thinks of herself as a good example for her children.

"I did my very best to be role model for my kids," said Chipwelong.

Chipwelong always reminds her children to stay in school and that school is very important. She now has two high school graduates, which she is very proud of and is hopeful that they would look into securing a college degree in the future.

Chipwelong emphasized that it took her seven years to get her two degrees while looking after her 12 children.

"Our life is not always going to be perfect. There are times where you think that you can't get back up, but actually, it's only you that can lift yourself up. When you fall, do not ever think that is the end. Even small improvements would make an impact on the future if you persevere," she said.

Roundabout, traffic lights planned in Garapan

Building a roundabout and putting up several traffic lights are among plans that will hopefully ease the traffic congestion in Garapan.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his administration had been conducting studies to find viable solutions for the worsening traffic.

"Lately we've been taking traffic counting in the area. Studying the amount of vehicle traffic coming from north and south."

A traffic count takes note of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in an area. It is usually conducted in a specific road or intersection. Foot and vehicle traffic in Garapan, especially during rush hours, has worsened in the past few months.

Torres said that turning the Garapan-Beach Road area

into a one-way street is also part of the plan, which is now being followed in the inner streets going from Imperial Pacific Resort's construction to Paseo de Marianas.

"There's also a proposal to have traffic lights in front of the four-corners near Cha and [Garapan Elementary School]. We're going to keep some of the one-way streets, like the one coming out from Godfather's," said Torres, who added the roundabout is planned to be constructed in the intersection along Beach Road and Micro Beach Road.

Torres added they are also waiting for the bus that will be used for public transportation, which is expected to arrive within two months. The bus is also accessible to persons with disabilities. (Jon Perez)

PSS

From Page 1

qualifications by getting a higher degree.

Ada said if employees decide to go for a master's degree, a pay increase may be directed toward the employee for taking the step, positively reinforcing employees to seek higher qualifications.

"The more you improve, advance, and the more you study, [the more] you get compensated for it," she said.

The entry level salaries would start at \$16,100 and would rise depending on qualifications following a 5-percent increment.

"We want to be competitive with the other states. We don't want [teachers] to [not work in the CNMI because] the pay scale is so low and the standard of living in the mainland is very high," said Ada.

"We are so happy that we are able to do this because our staff really deserve a pay raise for all the hard work that they do," she added.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero expressed thanks to the

board's approval.

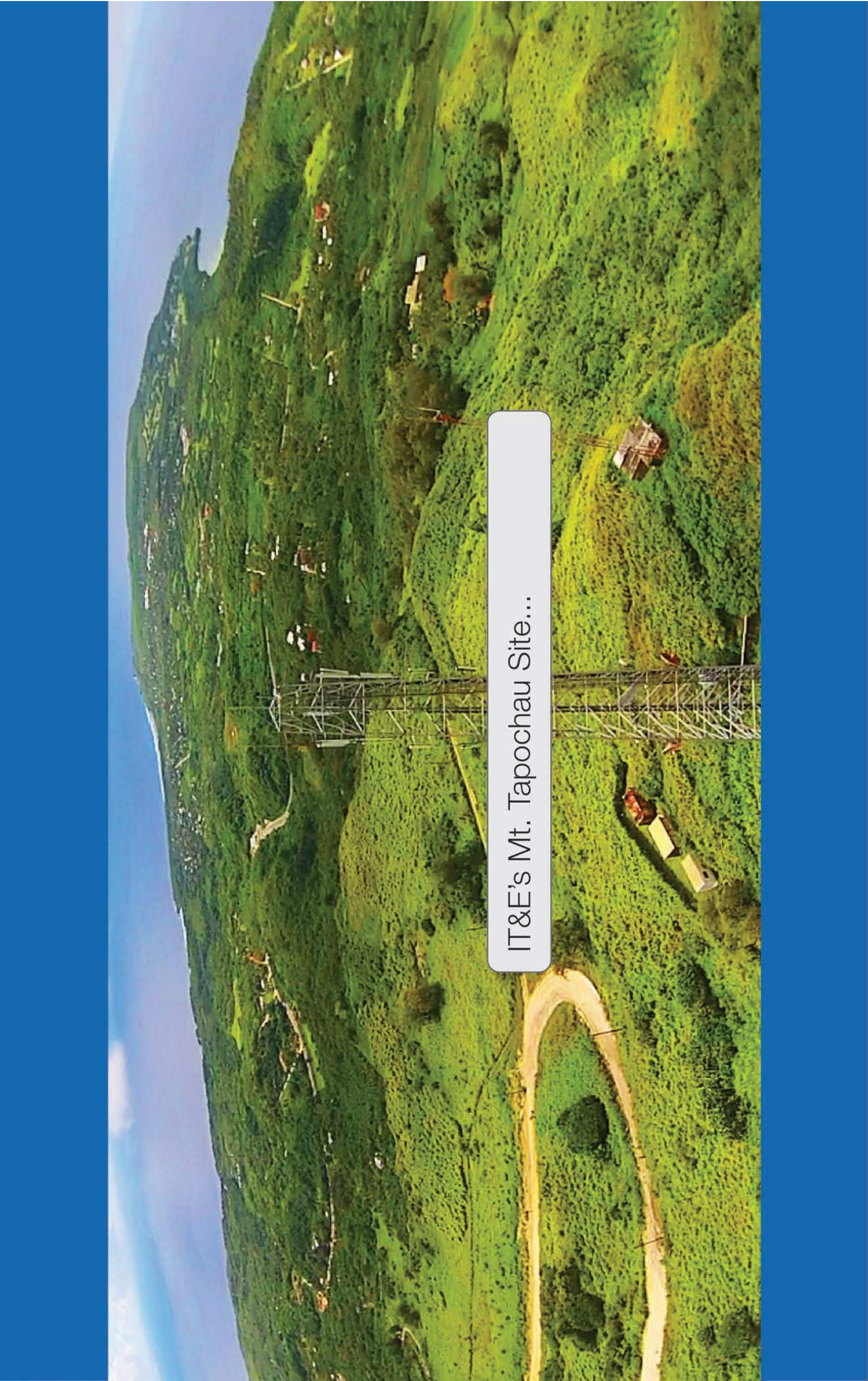
"One of the reasons why we spent the past two years doing a market study as well as certification requirements is [PSS] wanted to make sure that our certified and non-certified staff's salaries are competitive," said Deleon Guerrero, citing the difficulty PSS faces when it comes to recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and employees.

"We wanted to make sure our salaries are more competitive [compared than others]," she said.

According to Ada, the CNMI government's additional appropriation of \$2.7 million to PSS so it could pay its debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. helped PSS move money around to allow the compensations adjustment.

Public Law 19-75, signed into law last Dec. 20, 2016, directly allocated about \$10.2 million in additional funding to PSS.

"Paying CUC helped us a lot to have some money to work with," said Ada. "When we paid, it freed some money for us to move around and do things such as increasing employee salary compensation."



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Blanco seeks to widen discount benefit for senior citizens

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) has introduced a House resolution encouraging businesses in the CNMI to extend discount benefits to all senior citizens.

Senior citizens, collectively called the *man'amko* in the vernacular, are those 55 years old and above.

Blanco said the *man'amko* deserve the honor for their contributions that date back from the time the CNMI came under the Japanese administration.

"Our senior citizens have instilled knowledge, wisdom, and teaching that have become our moral compass to guide our generation through these rapidly changing times. Their sacrifices have become the well-spring of the strength and livelihood of the people of the CNMI," he said.

Blanco said the *man'amko* have also worked to preserve cultural values, customs, and traditions, which are considered treasures to be passed down to the next generation.

He praised business estab-

lishments that already offer senior citizens discounts and other benefits, whether on goods purchased or services rendered.

"The 20th Legislature also commends the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office of Aging for their efforts in ensuring that our senior citizens are being afforded the proper care and attention through the various implementation of programs for senior citizens."

There are currently more than 1,000 senior citizens that hold identification cards issued by the Aging Office under director Walter Manglona.

Blanco said the community is gratified that some business establishments already extend discounts to senior citizens. "These businesses are positively impacting the social, cultural, mental, and economic wellbeing of the senior citizens and the entire community," said Blanco.

Joeten stores, Payless, ACE Hardware, Dolphin Wholesale, Liberty Department Store, Café at the Park, Country House, Hard Rock Café, KFC/Taco Bell, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tony Roma's, Thai House, McDonald's, Herman's Bakery, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Microl Corp., Rainbow Color, and QQ Rent-A-Car are some of the establishments that have been offering senior citizen discounts from 2 to 4 percent.

Blanco's HR 20-5 aims to expand the senior citizens' discount benefits to other businesses.

HR 20-5 requests the DC-CA-Aging Office, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Korean Business Association, and other local businesses in extending discount privileges to senior citizens.



The CNMI Women's Association board.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Community readies for CNMI Women's Month

Women's Month is quickly approaching and the CNMI Women's Association and its partners are gearing up for a monthlong series of activities.

Activities will include a proclamation signing, a Mass, a meet-and-greet luncheon and dinner, workshops, a Women's March for H.E.R.S, a two-day Women's Summit, and first-ever CWA Gala, among other events.

Among the organizations and agencies that have committed to join the events are the Northern Marianas College, Carolinian Affairs Office, Division of Youth Affairs, DCCA-Arts Council, Community Guidance Center, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, CHCC-Division of Public Health Services/Maternal & Child Health Bureau, Best Sunshine's Corporate Social Responsibility team, Marianas Young Professionals, and Marianas Behavioral Health International, Inc.

CWA co-founder and president Felicidad T. Ogu-moro said the highlight will be the 4th Women's Summit on March 27-28, 2017, and CWA Gala on March 31, 2017, which aims to raise funds for a Women's Center and community training and job placement programs that benefit women and their families.

Women's Month is spearheaded by CWA and the Office of the Special Assistant for Women's Affairs. The International Women's Day theme is "Be Bold for Change." The CNMI has adopted "Empowering Women as Leaders of Change" as its theme for 2017.

The CNMI Women's Association is funded by the Community Services block grant, a sub-grant awarded by the DCCA Division of Youth Services under the Office of Community Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

It is led by a seven-member board. (PR)

Owner of stolen pickup offers \$300 reward

The owner of the pickup truck that was stolen in As Lito on Sunday is offering a \$300 reward to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the recovery of the vehicle.

June Alipio, an employee of Kensington Hotel, appealed yesterday to the public if they have information on the location of his red 1989 Toyota Hilux with license plate ABK-269 to call the police or contact him.

With the cash reward, Alipio and his family hope to recover the truck immediately.

Alipio and his son have been taking turns scouring villages, mountains, and jungles to look for the truck. Alipio is taking a leave of absence from work to devote his time to locating the truck.

Alipio parked the truck near Guangdong Hardware in As Lito on Sunday at 1:30pm. As he was about to go home at 6pm that same day, the vehicle was already missing. He then called the police.

The truck has an Air Jordan sticker on the back window. Alipio wonders how the suspect managed to steal his truck considering that he still has the key.

Saipan Tribune contacted NMI Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong yesterday if they are also offering a cash reward in this case, but he had yet to reply as of press time. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our **"Tropicana Restaurant"** (2nd floor of Taga Tower)!
Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Champagne, beers.

* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm * Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm * Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			2/1	2/2	2/3 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/4 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/5 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/6	2/7 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/8 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/9	2/10 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/11 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/12 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/13	2/14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/15 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/16	2/17 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/18 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/19 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/20	2/21 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/22 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/23	2/24 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
2/26 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	2/27	2/28 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)				

* Our **"Dolphin"** restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu (\$8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner (\$35).

* **"Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri., everyday is different; \$12 only, 15 servings per day; First in First Out!**

Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm

* **"Starlight BBQ"** Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. AD \$39 CH: \$19 (Local: AD \$35/ CH \$17) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm

Menu: "All you can eat & drink" - beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.

* Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set (\$7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies...

with unique ocean view at our **"Airi Coffee Lounge"**. Business hrs: 10:00am - 6:00pm **Pizza Set (\$10.00) available now !!**

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

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Veterans fair to continue on Tinian, Rota

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) hosted a Veterans Resource Fair on Saipan on Wednesday, to help raise awareness of the support services that veterans can avail of.

The fair continued yester-

day on Tinian at the Northern Marianas College instructional site and today on Rota, at the Rota Resort, from 10am to 4pm.

Tina Sablan, Sablan's outreach coordinator and deputy communications director, said

the fair invited over 30 service providers, both local and federal, to "share information about the resources that they offer to veteran service members and military families in the Marianas."

"We have representa-

tives from the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as a number of community health providers that are part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act program. We have also invited family programs of the Army Reserve and a whole array of social service organizations

such as Karidat, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, and the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, with their call-a-ride program, to name a few," said Sablan.

"Every social service provider that we could invite

together into one room we invited to come today to raise awareness of what is available to support those who have served," said Sablan.

The fair attracted almost 100 veterans and family members of veterans as of 4:45pm on Wednesday. **(Erwin Encinares)**

CCA brings in new members

The Commonwealth Cancer Association announced yesterday the election of its newest member on the CCA board: Nora R. Sablan, Alicia DLG Guerrero, and Cesar Dumatol. The CCA also re-elected to the board Roman "Bo" T. Palacios and Maria "Malua"

T. Peter for two-year terms.

The elections were held at a meeting of the CCA board on Jan. 19, 2017, at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

An election of CCA officers was also held, this time on Feb. 21, 2017. It saw the re-election of Palacios to serve

as CCA president, Bobbi Grizard as secretary, Sablan as vice president, and Dumatol as treasurer.

The CCA began as an alliance of volunteers in 2003. It became formally chartered and incorporated in 2008. In 2009, CCA achieved a tax-exempt status. It provides direct client assistance such

as nutritional supplements and other personal needs, as well as certain types of medical equipment to individuals who are receiving treatment for cancer.

CCA also facilitates a monthly cancer survivors support group meetings, and engages in various awareness and outreach activities and has

produced various educational publications such as brochures, fliers and DVDs.

The CCA organizes awareness events and engages in programs such as early screening and detection and patient navigation. CCA, in partnership with all seven dental clinics in the CNMI also offers free oral cancer

screening for all ages.

For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or visit its website at www.ccamarianas.org. Or you can visit CCA office at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold Middle Rd. in Gualo Rai. **(PR)**



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The Tinian village basketball court fence looks brand new. IPI-CSR



IPI-CSR
The CSR team repairs a fence at the Tinian village basketball court.

IPI's CSR team returns to Tinian for cleanup

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., through its Corporate Social Responsibility team, returned to Tinian this week for a three-day repair and rehabilitation work to some of the municipality's sporting facilities.

In partnership with the Office of Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nico-

las, IPI's CSR team is expected to complete today major repair work on Tinian village basketball court and structures around it.

Last year, Imperial Pacific's CSR team initiated major facelift and cleanup work in partnership with the municipal mayor's office. (PR)



IPI-CSR

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team has sent a team to Tinian to assist the Office of the Mayor for Tinian and Aguiguan for repairs and rehabilitation of some public facilities.



IPI-CSR

This is the second time in less than a year for Imperial Pacific to send its CSR team to assist and partner with the mayor's office.

Mystery Jackpot is over \$7,831

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Senate resolution for state address introduced

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) has introduced a Senate joint resolution calling for a joint session of the 20th CNMI Legislature to receive Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' State of the Commonwealth Address.

The governor's address is set for March 31 at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Article III, Section 9 (b) of the CNMI Constitution states that "the governor shall report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable."

The Legislature's last joint session was when the late governor Eloy S. Inos delivered his first State of the Commonwealth Address on June 30, 2014, 16 months since assuming the head of the CNMI following the resignation of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial, who was impeached by the House of Representatives.

In his speech, Torres is expected to give an update on the administration's achievements and other projects lined up that would benefit the people of the Commonwealth. He became governor in December 2015 after Inos' death.

Torres sent a letter earlier this month to Palacios and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) requesting the Legislature to hold a joint session.

Torres said his SoCA would include a comprehensive annual financial report.

"As we look ahead to the prospects of this year, we have an opportunity to further advance the goals and interests of the Commonwealth. We all share in the spirit of presenting solutions that address the critical issues affecting our people," said Torres. *(Jon Perez)*

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- ✓ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- ✓ Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)
- ✓ Medicaid
- ✓ National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- ✓ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ✓ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [Food Stamps]

Or fall Under Income Guidelines:

Number in household	135% of Federal poverty level
1	\$16,038
2	\$21,627
3	\$27,216
4	\$32,805
5	\$38,394
For each additional household member, add	\$5,616

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Man accused of having sex with minor gets 4 months in prison

A 20-year-old man accused of having sex with his then 15-year-old girlfriend in Garapan last year pleaded guilty on Wednesday and was slapped with a four-month prison term.

Ashiqur Rahaman, also known as Simon Kosam, pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery. He was sentenced to one-year in prison, all suspended except for four months.

Rahaman was given credit for four months of time served.

The sentence shall be in addition to his sentence in a previous 2015 criminal conviction. In that case, he pleaded

guilty to assault and battery.

This means Rahaman shall be released from the Department of Corrections on March 21, 2017.

As part of the plea deal, the

government dropped the remaining count of assault and battery.

Rahaman was originally charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the

second degree. The government later amended the charge to two counts of assault and battery.

Jennifer Dockter served as counsel for Rahaman. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan SDA to host 5K Hope Run

The Saipan SDA School 5K Hope Run will take place this Sunday, Feb. 26. The race starts at 6:30am and the course is from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Trankun Da'uk (the green and yellow pavilion across from the courthouse). (*PR*)

'Talk to Your Rep' today

Residents of Garapan, Gualo Rai, Navy Hill, and Chinatown are invited to the "Talk to Your Rep" event today, Feb. 24, at 6pm at the Carolinian *utt*. This is a commu-

nity outreach for residents of these villages to discuss concerns and share ideas with Rep. Ivan A. Blanco. The date and time for the March meeting will be announced later for residents of Capital Hill, Sadog Tasi, Chalan Kiya, Oleai, and contiguous areas in Precinct 3. (*PR*)

SHEFA deadline for supporting documents

The deadline to submit supporting documents for SHEFA applicants is on Feb. 28, 2017, a Tuesday. Please make sure to have all complete documents

before submission. (*PR*)

9th JP Glow Walk today

TanHoldings will be holding its 9th Annual JP Walk today, Feb. 24. Registration is \$10 per person, inclusive of a free shirt (while supplies last) and a raffle ticket. The fair will start at 5pm. Pick up registration forms at the JP Center Bldg. along Beach Road in Garapan or register at the site starting at 4pm. There will be two routes. The 3K will start from the Garapan Fishing Base to the turning point across Gold Beach Hotel and there will be a turning point

at Quartermaster Road intersection for the 5K. Funds raised from the event will go to the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer on behalf of TanHoldings. For more information, call Eunice Angeles at (670) 235-0561. (*PR*)

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Feb. 24, from 10am to 3:45pm. The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (*PR*)

MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb. 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA's and Accountants will be hosting their annual tax seminar on Feb. 25 at the Raraina, Aqua Resort Club, from 8am to noon. This year's focus will be on tax updates for 2016 and 2017, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements, and others.

David Burger, CPA, will be conducting the seminar. He is the managing partner of Burg-

Xavier entrance exam on Feb. 25

The Xavier High School entrance written exam will be administered on Feb. 25, at 8:30am at Mt. Carmel School. Interested test takers are encouraged to bring several No. 2 pencils, snacks, and water. Exam fee is \$10. There are two parts to the exam (English and math). Each exam lasts one hour and 30 minutes with a 15-minute break in between. Test takers should be prepared to be on the Mt. Car-

mel school grounds for three hours and 30 minutes from 8am to 11:30pm. Exam starts exactly at 8:30am. Interested exam takers are encouraged to RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 23, to reserve a seat a seat. Email ialafanso@gmail.com or call 285-8768. Xavier High School is a Jesuit Catholic school. (*PR*)

Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email jeannesq@yahoo.com or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (*PR*)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-17-IFB-007

AS PERDIDO ROAD ANTI-SKID, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the As Perdido Road Anti-Skid, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 17, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in the bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 8, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 22, 2017 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 28, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 28, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 28, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 7, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 28, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred Dollars (US\$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2017 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 02, 2017 at Pacific Islands Club-Charley's Cabaret from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of March 02, 2017
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2016 Joint State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2016
- V. Reports
 - A. Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson
 - B. Center for Living Independently (CLI) Executive Director
 - C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Director
 - D. Other Reports
- VI. Action Items
 - A. SILC Membership Listing
 - a. Tinian Representative
 - b. Client Assistance Program (CAP) Representative
 - B. Independent Living Older Blind (IOLB) Program Policies and Procedures Proposed Revisions
- VII. Old Business
 - A. FY 2017 SILC Resource Plan
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Status of State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL) Implementation
- IX. Announcement/Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ **Emeterio Fitial**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Free art classes at the AMP

American Memorial Park announced yesterday the first ever Art-in-the-Park series. In March and April, the American Memorial Park is partnering with local artists to provide free art classes to the community. Join us in creating amazing art!

PASTELS

When: March 11, 2017, from 9am to 12pm
Instructor: Peter Aldan
Ages: 8 years old and up

BEADING

When: March 18, 2017, from 9am to 12pm
Instructor: Emi Peter-Palican
Ages: All ages

PHOTOGRAPHY

When: March 25, 2017, from 9am to 12pm

Instructor: Chelu Photos
Ages: 8 years old and up

BANANA PAINTING

When: April 1, 2017
Instructor: Joy Rankin Santos
Ages: All ages

At the end of the sessions, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the public to enjoy as we kick off National Park Week.

Space is limited so register today! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. The center is open daily from 9m to 5pm. Registration forms may also be requested via email at jmaf-nas@pacifichistoricparks.org. For questions contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt or education specialist Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207x2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

Docomo, NEC partner to improve indoor communication in Guam

Docomo Pacific and NEC Corp. have conducted trials for improving indoor LTE communications throughout the island of Guam.

Beginning September last year, NEC introduced their Enterprise-Radio Access Network solution to Docomo Pacific retail stores on a trial basis. During the trials, both companies quickly succeeded in delivering an indoor signal quality up to three times better than before.

NEC's technology enables simultaneous LTE communications for up to 64 smartphones, tablets, and other devices per access point.

Docomo Pacific's partnership with NEC provides an innovative solution to an increasingly important component of consumer mobile needs. By deploying the E-RAN solution, today's "always on" subscriber will continue to have access to a robust

and reliable connection, even while indoors.

Jonathan Kriegel, president and chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific, said: "Many of our buildings in Guam are made to withstand typhoons and earthquakes using material like stone, concrete, steel, and tinted glass, that contain signal blocking properties. By using NEC's E-RAN solution, we are able to deliver an improved LTE signal to our customers that are indoors."

Nozomu Watanabe, general manager, Mobile Radio Access Network Division, NEC Corp., said: "We are very pleased with the success of these trials conducted in cooperation with Docomo Pacific and will continue contributing to the market leading telecommunications connectivity offered by Docomo Pacific, both in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands." (PR)

Power interruption on Thursday on Dandan Rd.

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, March 2, 2017, from 9am to 12pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely continue change wooden power poles to concrete along Dandan Road. This is part of CUC's ongoing program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the distribution circuit.

Areas to be affected are Dandan Road (along Flame

Tree Road, MARFEGA Building, Lower Dandan Homestead). No water wells will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our daddy, Myron Laniyo. May today, Feb. 24, 2017, be very special for you! Don't work too hard and enjoy! Have a great and blessed one! We love you more than a million! Greetings from your three precious jewels!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-017

KOBLERVILLE SUMP ADANDONMENT AND WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new transmission and distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, new sample taps, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **220 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-017, Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23rd, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-019

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **March 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope of Work.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-019, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water & Wastewater Facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Gary Byrd, CUC Water & Wastewater Division Manager via email gary.byrd@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement Technician, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Sorry, Sweden: Another US ally gets presidential disapproval

On Saturday President Donald J. Trump added Sweden to a list of allies that he had insulted publicly.

Mexico was the first. Trump pounded so hard on his campaign point that the United States was going to build a wall across its southern border and make Mexico pay for it that Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto canceled his scheduled visit to the United States. Next was Australia. Trump found his telephone conversation with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull so unsatisfying—presumably discussion of an exchange of refugees President Barack Obama had agreed upon with Australia—that he let an account of his annoyance go public, in the process insulting the Australians, one of America's closest allies.

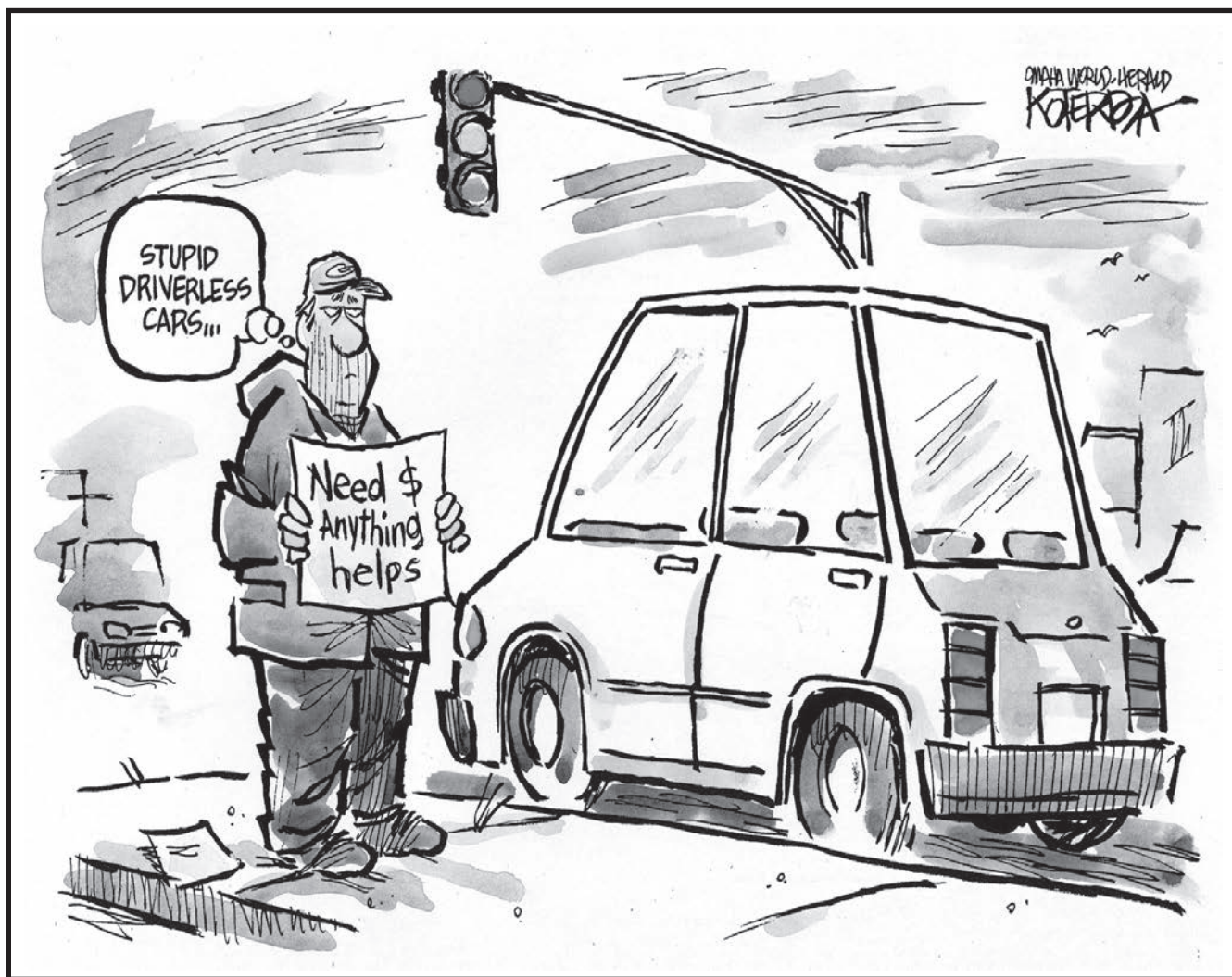
It was Sweden's turn Saturday, at a political rally Trump held at Melbourne, Fla. The reason for the event, presumably to cover its financing, was an early opening to Trump's campaign for re-election as president in 2020. In making his familiar point that migrants were bad for a country, he cited Sweden's relatively high rate of acceptance of migrants and attributed to it as a result a terrorist attack there the night before.

The unfortunate part, for Trump and for America, was that there was no such attack, which the Swedes hastened to verify and then affirm. When called on his mistake, Trump said he had seen a story on Fox News about immigrants and Sweden. That network had broadcast one of its habitual reports hammering immigration, focusing on a documentary asserting a wave of violence by refugees in Sweden, but nothing about an attack the night before.

In the meantime, Vice President Mike Pence was in Europe busily trying to calm European fears that America is about to abandon Europe, in security terms in NATO, and in its previous support of fruitful relations with a strong European Union. Trump's Sweden miscue did nothing to enhance Pence's claims of continued firm U.S. attachment to its traditional economic, political and security alliance with Europe. Continued disarray within Trump's administration centering, in part, on communications and ties with Russia, featured by the sacking of Michael T. Flynn as national security adviser, hasn't reassured the Europeans either.

Trump's addition of Sweden, an EU member that partners with NATO, to his list of disrespected countries just makes things worse. How is Pence to assure Europe that America seeks continued good relations without telling its leaders simply to ignore what Trump says?

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Got stress?

Last week, in this space, I mentioned that people have told me the news is making them feel stressed out. By coincidence, I have noticed that on Feb. 16, Bloomberg's website ran an article titled "How to Stay Sane in a World of Crazy News." Bloomberg is a name associated with New York City, and the scope of its article pertained to recent political contentions in the U.S. It can, however, remind us of a more general factor in modern life: Too much immersion in the news can induce anxiety.

This applies to Saipan every bit as much as it does in the big city. In fact, it might apply even more to Saipan sometimes. Anyway, if stress can be the cost of indulging the ever-quicker news cycle, then what are the benefits? I don't have an answer to that, but it's worth thinking about.

I know professionals on Saipan who find that following CNMI events, particularly the constant stream of intrigues rooted in the CNMI's idiosyncratic way of administering itself, so exasperating that they regard news consumption as an unsavory chore. Sometimes they farm it out to subordinates.

Anyway, no matter where you are, you might have a limit on how much news and how many news-related discussions you want to entertain. Then again, you might not have a limit. Preferences vary widely on this note. I think the most common outlook is "more is better."

I figured I'd see what a couple of philosophers have to say about the matter.

We'll start with Henry David Thoreau, who lived from 1817 to 1862. Thoreau, whose most famous work was the book, *Walden*, certainly has a fan base on Saipan.

Thoreau was no fan of chatter for the sake of chatter, nor of technology for the sake of technology.

Here's a quote from *Walden*: "We are in great haste to construct a magnetic telegraph from Maine to Texas; but Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate."

That's certainly a curmudgeonly outlook, but that's where the charm is, and it is part of a distinct thread in the old-school American outlook.

Next we'll consult Nassim Nicholas Taleb via his 2012 book, *Antifragile*. Taleb, who has a serious background in mathematics, understands the nature of data, and, reciprocally, the "noise" that can mask data.

"In science," writes Taleb, "noise is a generalization beyond the actual sound to describe random information that is totally useless..."

I've seen this in some trade publications that I've followed, publications that deal in technical and specialized topics. Much

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

of what is said is just stuff being said about stuff that's being said. If you'd like to get the attention of your peers so they know how smart you are, then you can chime in and say something about what's being said about the stuff being said. This noise eventually becomes an Easter egg hunt without that pesky little detail, the actual egg.

If you've ever worked for a large business that has gotten swept up in this cycle, as management ranks become ever-more immersed in "data" and ever-more separated from the actual reality at the retail level, you'll know exactly what I mean.

More Taleb: "A very rarely discussed property of data: it is toxic in large quantities—even in moderate quantities." That sure seems contrary to intuition, but there's some insightful logic here, namely that being too enthralled with data can tempt us to mess with situations we don't really understand.

I don't know if people will be receptive to that observation at an abstract level. I doubt I would have believed it unless I had seen so many examples in the real world. I know that most of the boneheaded business decisions I've seen weren't based on too little data, but were based on too much of it, which made it a convincing imposter that overruled simpler heuristics. To be fair here, perhaps the data itself wasn't to blame, but the misuse of it sure was. In any event, the absurdity of the situation is that being precisely wrong is often valued more than being approximately right.

The more I see of this, the more I realize that wisdom and knowledge are entirely different things. I doubt they have lunch together more than once a year. Even if they do, it's probably tense and they're all phony nicey-nicey to each other, just trying to politely endure the ordeal on the off chance that they'll need to call the other one for some help someday.

Anyway, the bottom line is that modern life has become the constant grasping for more and more information. Contemporary sensibilities regard this as sophisticated and necessary. By contrast, some ancient outlooks see constant grasping as a path to disenchantment and suffering.

So, which will prove true, the new wisdom or the old wisdom? It's not for me to say. Hey, maybe the answer will be covered in the news soon. I'll keep on checking.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Review of our fiscal posture

The U.S. General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, is here to look into the CNMI fiscal posture, e.g., deficit, revenue and its ability to pay debts and obligations.

This is to avoid replicating the Puerto Rico experience of drowning in a sea of debt of some \$77 billion. Such fiscal condition has forced many of its people to flee to the U.S. mainland.

This relocation (literally an evacuation) happened here some eight years ago. More than 3,000 of our people evacuated to Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland, intuitively sensing how paradise has turned into a hellish hole. The evacuation continues to occur today, especially from Tinian and Rota.

The CNMI is now saddled with a \$471 million deficit, if not more. I'm sure this doesn't include the over \$700-plus million in long-term debt of the old retirement program, driven to bankruptcy by half-cocked political decisions. A huge deficit isn't sound fiscal posture, is it?

Nonetheless, did the NMI follow constitutional requirement that deficit is retired every two years? Or was this given the usual juvenile excuse of "not yet, already?" It's a constitutional mandate that exist for a purpose—ensure public funds are spent with a sense of frugality so it doesn't turn into a fiscal monstrosity.

GAO should delve into policy-driven bankruptcy, e.g. a decision years ago to avoid taxing the apparel industry for fear it may leave. Well, WTO came in and knocked out Covenant protection of goods manufactured here. Garment left!

Today, the NMI turns its head taxing the casino industry that last month raked in over \$32 billion. We still want to milk U.S. mainland taxpayers for needs here while skipping a system of taxation that establishes a level playing field.

GAO should also review land, housing and banking policies where land is funneled through banks for loans, seemingly destined into the unintended consequence of homelessness. Aren't there federal housing programs that could help moderate-income folks build family homes?

As it is, it seems policies in these two areas are designed to force homelessness and destitution. Hope this too comes under

scrutiny to do away with internally generated hardship. This must change!

Take five:

The often-blurred rhetoric on indigenous rights turns into intramural calisthenics. I'm appalled at the anomaly of grand inconsistency thundering from the loose valves of advocates.

It would be to our benefit to seriously review what's known as "translational dematerialization" of culture in postcolonial period and an internal review of our performance in self-government since 1978. It should give us a view of our journey, e.g., changes since taking over the reins of self-rule. Furthermore, it should be self-evident where we messed up too!

We can't cherry pick indigenous issues for it only depicts half-cock commitment to be of assistance. It should include a fight against the bulldozing and desecrating of ancestral burial ground at Anaguan and elsewhere. Collectively, we should challenge locals fronting for foreigners buying land as a way to circumvent Article 12. Are the purchases legal?

Pearl of wisdom

We know that culture is what... binds individuals in a group with roots, in a community in which they think and will generally, with a people a moral unity, and the individual united within himself.

I know my culture and the fact that I am wrapped in dual genealogy.

Through the years I've benefited from its "pearl of wisdom," respect being the highest of virtues in both traditions. It is the enduring spiritual anchor and lasting foundation of a way of life. Posturing is a bad juncture for purposes of bonding!

Local tradition and its core values are a part of me and have shared and passed them on to my own children. They in turn would adopt it that sets the path to attain a way of life that is both "virtuous and enduring."

The enemy: Some suspect professorial advocates have simply ignored revisiting the agreement to understand its provisions. In the process, they blindly established another political status commission in futility. What about the 902 talks? So why circle

The NMI is caught in the crossfire of differing federal circuit court decisions relating to landownership disposition and the rights of non-indigent U.S. citizens allowed to vote on the same issue. I suppose it's a right that isn't! Dizzying?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

the bull cart looking for the keys?

Reminds me of Mahatma Ghandi's answer when asked what's the major hindrance to Christianity? His answer was simple, "Christians!"

The 80-percent blowout: Increase per CPI between 2010-2015 is about 18 percent. What was the basis of the 80 percent decision inundated with greed to pad their Cadillac lifestyle? And you could only dish 5 percent for lowly public sector employees? What about private industry employees who are paid lower than those in government?

A right that is...isn't: The NMI is caught in the crossfire of differing federal circuit court decisions relating to landownership disposition and the rights of non-indigent U.S. citizens allowed to vote on the same issue. I suppose it's a right that isn't! Dizzying?

Indigenous advocates, through an attorney, are asking a federal appeals court for a rehearing. How would the court untangle a Johnny-come-lately request? Why wasn't it challenged when it was still in federal court here? Aren't federal appeals court decisions final?

It appears a citizen's right to vote was premised on the legal precedent *Rice V. Cayetano* case. Mr. Rice was born in Hawaii.

Mr. Rice took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court who ruled unconstitutional the Native-Hawaiian only voting, saying it was race-based. It seems a parallel case, isn't it? NMDC may succeed in the "circus" court but there's a U.S. Supreme Court ruling already per the *Rice* case.

Yes, there's a citizen's rights to own property where challenges may be litigated on the perceptual discriminatory aspect of Article 12. I say there's nothing discriminatory given that Native Americans (Indians) are allowed to own their land. Like they say, "What's good for the goose is also good for the gander!"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When science becomes propaganda

On Feb. 20, 2017, a writer named Stewart Lawrence published a brief article on the website, www.studyfinds.org. The article cites a study, conducted in China, which says that taking dietary supplements are not only bad for you, but that taking them could shorten your life.

"A study conducted in China, where aging is akin to a national obsession these days, claims that antioxidants don't work as billed. The study is published in the journal *Redox Biology*.

The study finds that antioxidant supplements may be more harmful to the human body than believed. Rather than extending longevity, researchers say they trigger a stress reaction that causes the body to age more rapidly. In other words, those expensive life-enhancers may actually be killing you."

This is pure government-sponsored propaganda and I'll tell you why.

First, there were no clinical trials, which are the gold standard for measuring the impact of vitamins, pharmaceuticals, minerals, enzymes, you name it. A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial—which can involve thousands of patients and take years to complete—was not cited. The Chinese doctors appear to have just made it all up.

Vitamin supplements are not readily available in China. I know this because my stepdaughter, who was living in Beijing,

had a bad cold and I suggested that she take some vitamin C. However, in Beijing, one can only buy very small dosages, such as 5 mg (which is nothing).

It is impossible to buy doses of vitamin C in 500mg or greater, and this is true of all other dietary supplements. They are not easily available to the public.

However, the article, originally published in the *South China Morning Post*, insists that young Chinese people are harming their health by taking vitamin C, beta-carotene, and other supplements. It's hogwash, and most likely government-sponsored hogwash.

The article also claims that Danish scientists (conveniently unidentified) validated the Chinese research. But there was no research, no clinical trials.

In America, and other Western countries, the value of taking dietary supplements has not only been well established, there are thousands of clinical trials which support their findings: your body needs vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and Omega 3 oils. There is no way around it.

Just as your car needs gasoline to run, your body needs nutrients to keep you going through the day. If your car's gas gauge is on empty, you won't get very far.

There are other reasons for the necessity for taking dietary

supplements—in addition to the health benefits. The first is that most of the food we eat is nutritionally deficient. Drinking a glass of orange juice won't give you much vitamin C, but it will give you a lot of sugar (a toxin). Therefore, supplementing with C is essential, a minimum of 500mg per day; thousands of studies confirm this.

Another reason for taking supplements is that we are continually subjected to toxins, in the air we breath (the air in Beijing is highly toxic), the foods we eat, and some of the beverages we drink. Taking dietary supplements helps to rid the body of antioxidants and toxic buildup.

But it's not just the Chinese media; there seems to be a full-court press to discourage people from taking dietary supplements—even on Wikipedia. The pharmaceutical companies pay physicians large sums to write propaganda, discouraging the use of nutritional supplements.

Bottom line: take a good multi-vitamin every day, along with vitamin C, and Omega 3 fatty acids. These are not only health-promoting nutrients, your body needs them. Good scientific research is available online, but you have to watch out for propaganda.

Russ Mason, MS

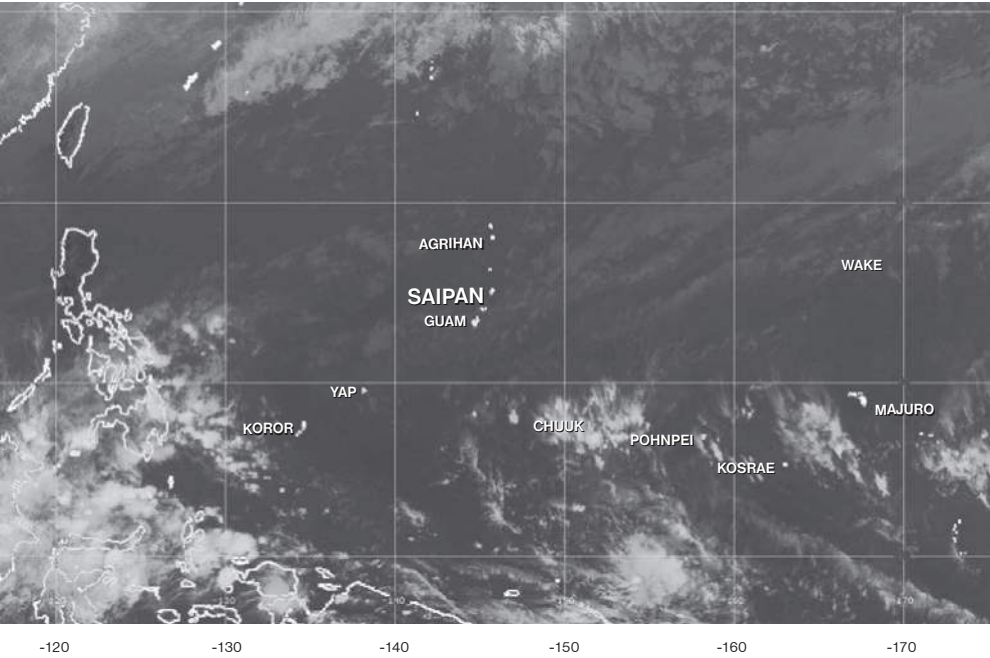
As Teo, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Slight increase in clouds today thanks to a fragment of an old shear line to the east of us which broke loose and is passing over the Marianas now. There is a similar slight increase in showers, so slight as to not even merit mention in the forecast. GFS and ECMWF-HiRes both drop around half an inch the next 10 days. Dry season has arrived and is not going anywhere anytime soon. Winds and waves will bob up and down a little, however they are currently expected to remain below small craft advisory criteria on the high end and above 6 feet and 15 knots at the low end. What you see is awfully close to what you are going to get.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly sunny	86 77 °F
Palau	Isolated thunderstorms	85 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 71 °F
Chuuk	Mixed clouds and sun	86 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F
Kosrae	Variable clouds	86 79 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	75 62 °F
Beijing	Sunny skies	55 27 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	58 54 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	77 67 °F
London	Cloudy	48 38 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	63 43 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	88 76 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	91 55 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	83 64 °F
New York	Mostly cloudy	64 53 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	47 35 °F
Paris	A mostly clear sky	47 31 °F
Pusan	Sunny	45 28 °F
Rome	Windy	61 49 °F
Salem	Rain and snow	44 31 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	53 45 °F
Seoul	Sunny	40 26 °F
Tokyo	Mostly cloudy	52 36 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	74 58 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:16 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.08
7:08 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.78
12:41 PM	LOW TIDE		1.04
5:47 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:30 AM	4:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:18 AM	5:10 PM	-
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:05 PM	-
Monday	6:52 AM	7:00 PM	-
Tuesday	7:38 AM	7:56 PM	-

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN	PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, HX HK Express, UO HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Fed officials discussed possible rate hike 'fairly soon'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve officials earlier this month discussed the need to raise a key interest rate again “fairly soon,” especially if the economy remains strong.

Minutes of the discussions in minutes released Wednesday

showed that while Fed officials decided to keep a key rate unchanged at their Jan. 31-Feb. 1 meeting, there was growing concern about inflation if the economy outperformed expectations.

“Several” Fed officials

Americans buy existing homes at fastest pace in a decade

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans shrugged off rising mortgage rates and bought existing homes in January at the fastest pace since 2007. That has set off bidding wars that have pushed up prices as the supply of available homes has dwindled to record lows.

Home sales rose 3.3 percent in January from December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.69 million, the National Association of Realtors said Wednesday.

Steady job gains, modest pay raises and rising consumer confidence are spurring healthy home buying even as borrowing costs have risen since last fall. Some potential buyers may be accelerating their home purchases to get ahead of any further increases in mortgage rates. With few homes available for sale, buyers are pressured to rapidly close a deal as they find a suitable property.

The typical house for sale was on the market for just 50 days last month, compared with 64 days a year ago. Strong demand is pushing up

median home prices, which jumped 7.1 percent from a year earlier to \$228,900.

Just 1.69 million homes were on the market nationwide in January, near the lowest level since records began in 1999. It would take just 3.6 months to deplete that supply at the current pace of sales, matching a record low reached in December. Supply is usually equal to about six months of sales in a balanced housing market.

The supply crunch will likely get worse during the upcoming spring buying season, economists say, as demand typically rises by more than supply during that time.

“Relative to the number of households, the number of homes for sale is well through prior historic lows,” said Ted Wieseman, an economist at Morgan Stanley. “The level of inventories could be a much bigger challenge moving into much higher sales in the spring and summer.”

That, combined with higher mortgage rates, could soon restrain sales.

expressed worries that unemployment could fall substantially below the Fed’s 4.8 percent unemployment goal. That could trigger inflation pressures that would require the Fed to boost rates at a faster pace than financial markets currently expect. Unemployment in December was 4.7 percent although it inched back up to 4.8 percent in January.

Most economists had indicated they did not foresee a rate hike until June. But the discussion in the minutes might increase the possibility of a rate increase as soon as March.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the “fairly soon”

phrase in the minutes “clearly leaves the door open to a March rate hike although ... we still think the Fed will delay until June.”

Mark Hamrick, senior economic analyst for Bankrate.com, said that the minutes show “that policymakers are clearly focused on the possibility of raising rates fairly soon.” But Hamrick said he believed the Fed will be cautious given the uncertainty surrounding President Donald Trump’s economic program.

The minutes showed that a couple of Fed officials suggested the central bank might need to alter the wording of its policy statement because currently the Fed’s assurances

that it planned to raise rates at a “gradual” pace could be “misunderstood as a commitment of only one or two rate hikes per year.”

The minutes were released with the customary three week delay. Fed officials spent time discussing Trump’s proposed stimulus program and its possible impact on the economy, although the minutes never mentioned Trump by name.

“Most participants continued to see heightened uncertainty regarding the size, composition and timing of possible changes” to the government tax and spending policies, the minutes said.

While some Fed officials said the central bank should

not wait until the outlines of Trump’s program became clearer before raising rates, others urged more caution.

This group argued against “adjusting monetary policy in anticipation of policy proposals that might not be enacted or that, if enacted, might turn out to have different consequences for economic activity and inflation than currently anticipated.”

At the February meeting, the central bank left its key interest rate unchanged while noting that the economy was continuing to advance toward its twin objectives of maximum employment and inflation rising at a moderate annual rate of 2 percent.

Spirit Airlines CEO dismisses new, cheaper fares by rivals

DALLAS (AP)—The CEO of discount carrier Spirit Airlines says he isn’t worried about competing against new, cheaper fares from American and United.

The “basic economy” fares from American and United are designed to attract the kind of thrifty fliers that have helped Spirit double in revenue in four years.

Spirit has always been known as a low-fare, high-fees carrier—the fees made it one of the most complained-about airlines in the industry.

At least Spirit passengers know what they’re getting for what the airline calls a “bare fare,” CEO Robert Fornaro said Wednesday. He said

American and United customers are going to be disappointed when they find out they can’t upgrade their seat or bring a rolling carry-on bag.

“These pricing schemes are not new,” Fornaro said in a phone interview. “Delta has been doing this for several years. We do fine competing with Delta, and I think we’ll do fine competing with these guys.”

Delta coined the term “basic economy” to describe cheap tickets with severe restrictions.

The rules vary by airline—American and United, which started selling basic-economy tickets on a few routes this week, limit buyers to carrying only a small bag that fits under

their seat. Seating restrictions mean families may not be able to sit together.

But compared with a regular economy ticket on the big airlines, the basic-economy fares are generally cheaper by \$20 to \$40 or more per round trip.

Fornaro said the real purpose of basic economy for Delta, American and United is to entice customers with one fare then nudge them to buy a higher-priced seat instead.


“They’re not kind of being honest about what they’re trying to do,” he said.

When customers try to buy a basic-economy ticket on United’s website, they are told about restrictions on the ticket. They must either check and

click “Basic Economy works for me” or select a higher-priced seat. American takes the same approach, asking customers if they want to “Accept restrictions” or “Move to Main Cabin”—a pricier ticket.

“We will help our customers understand what they’re buying with multiple, clear disclosures about how basic economy works,” starting when they buy their tickets, American Airlines spokesman Joshua Freed said.

United Airlines spokesman Jonathan Guerin said, “Basic economy lets our customers choose a fare that fits their travel needs.” He said messages about the ticket’s rules are clear during booking and at check-in.


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INVITATION TO BID
CPA-IFB-005-17

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 17, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**“PROCUREMENT OF ONE TRACTOR AND MOWER
FOR TINIAN AIRPORT, TINIAN**

DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR & MOWER TO TINIAN AIRPORT SHALL BE 120 DAYS OR SOONER AFTER BID AWARD. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL AT atudela@cpa.gov.mp (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) PRIOR TO MARCH 10, 2017.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: “IFB FOR PROCUREMENT OF ONE TRACTOR & MOWER FOR TINIAN AIRPORT”. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 40-50-1020 AND 40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-007-17

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**“PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
OF GENERATORS AT THE SAIPAN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN”**


PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAIN AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 03, 2017, UPON PAYMENT OF \$150.00 AT CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE.

A PREPROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE CPA PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, TERMINAL DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN AIRPORT.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 40-50-1020 AND 40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RS-001-17

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**“Administrative Building Cargo Bay and Dock Floor
Slab Repairs West Harbor, Rota, Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands.”**

The Proposal Package and other considerations may be picked up at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All questions and/or clarifications shall be directed in writing to Mr. Chris Tenorio or email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than March 10, 2017.

The provisions of the CPA Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 40-50-1020 and 40-50-1025 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Nation

Trump administration lifts transgender bathroom guidance



AP
In this May 17, 2016 file photo, a new sticker is placed on the door at the ceremonial opening of a gender neutral bathroom at Nathan Hale High School in Seattle.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Transgender students on Wednesday lost federal protections that allowed them to use school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender identities, as the Trump administration stepped into a long-simmering national debate.

The administration came down on the side of states' rights, lifting Obama-era federal guidelines that had been characterized by Republicans as an example of overreach.

Without the Obama directive, it will be up to states and school districts to interpret federal anti-discrimination law and determine whether students should have access to restrooms in accordance with their expressed gender identity and not just their biological sex.

"This is an issue best solved at the state and local level," Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said. "Schools, communities and families can find—and in many cases have found—solutions that protect all students."

In a letter to the nation's schools, the Justice and Education departments said the earlier guidance "has given rise to significant litigation regarding school restrooms and locker rooms."

The agencies withdrew the guidance to "in order to further and more completely consider the legal issues involved."

Anti-bullying safeguards would not be affected by the change, according to the letter. "All schools must ensure that all students, including LGBT students, are able to learn and thrive in a safe environment," it said.

It was not clear what immediate impact the change would have on schools, as a federal judge in Texas put a temporary hold on the Obama guidance soon after it was issued - after 13 states sued.

Even without that hold, the guidance carried no force of law. But transgender rights advocates say it was useful and necessary to protect students from discrimination. Opponents argued it was federal overreach and violated the safety and privacy of other students.

The White House said "returning power to the states paves the way for an open and inclusive process to take place at the local level with input from parents, students, teachers and administrators."

The reversal is a setback for transgender rights groups, which had been urging Trump to keep the guidelines in place. Advocates say federal law will

still prohibit discrimination against students based on their gender or sexual orientation.

Still, they say lifting the Obama directive puts children in harm's way.

"Reversing this guidance

tells trans kids that it's OK with the Trump administration and the Department of Education for them to be abused and harassed at school for being trans," said American Federation of Teachers President

Randi Weingarten.

Activists protested the move Wednesday outside the White House. "Respect existence or expect resistance," read one placard.

Conservatives hailed the

change, saying the Obama directives were illegal and violated the rights of fixed-gender students, especially girls who did not feel safe changing clothes or using restrooms next to anatomical males.

Immigrants fearing deportation under Trump change routines

By DEEPTI HAJELA and

AMY TAXIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Orange County, California, dozens of immigrant parents have signed legal documents authorizing friends and relatives to pick up their children from school and access their bank accounts to pay their bills in the event they are arrested by immigration agents.

In Philadelphia, immigrants are carrying around wallet-size "Know Your Rights" guides in Spanish and English that explain what to do if they're rounded up.

And in New York, 23-year-old Zuleima Dominguez and other members of her Mexican family are careful about answering the door and start making worried phone calls when someone doesn't come home on time.

Around the country, President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on the estimat-

ed 11 million immigrants living illegally in the U.S. have spread fear and anxiety and led many people to brace for arrest and to change up their daily routines in hopes of not getting caught.

In El Paso, Texas, Carmen Ramos and her friends have developed a network to keep each other updated via text messages on where immigration checkpoints have been set up.

She said she also is making certain everything she does is in order at all times. She checks her taillights before leaving the house to make sure they are working. She won't speed and keeps a close eye on her surroundings.

"We are surprised that even a ticket can get us back to Mexico," said the 41-year-old Ramos, who with her husband and three children left Ciudad Juarez because of drug violence and death threats in 2008 and entered the U.S. on tourist visas that have since expired. "We wouldn't

have anywhere to return."

The unease among immigrants has been building for months but intensified in recent weeks with ever-clearer signs that the Trump administration would jettison the Obama-era policy of focusing mostly on deporting those who had committed serious crimes.

The administration announced Tuesday that any immigrant in the country illegally who is charged with or convicted of any offense, or even suspected of a crime, will now be an enforcement priority. That could include people arrested for shoplifting or other minor offenses, or those who simply crossed the border illegally.

Some husbands and wives fear spouses who lack legal papers could be taken away. And many worry that parents will be separated from their U.S.-born children.

Dozens of immigrants have been turning up at an advoca-

cy group's offices in Philadelphia, asking questions like, "Who will take care of my children if I am deported?" They also are coached on how to develop a "deportation plan" that includes the name and number of an attorney and other emergency contacts in case of arrest.

An organization in Austin, Texas, that runs a deportation hotline said it normally would receive one or two calls every few days. After recent immigration raids, the phone rang off the hook.

"We got over 1,000 phone calls in three days about the raids," said Cristina Parker, immigration programs director for Grassroots Leadership. "And certainly a lot of those were people who wanted information about the raids saying, 'I'm scared, I'm worried, what can I do?'... A lot of them were people who were impacted by the raids who saw a friend or family be taken."

Asia

Analysis: As China ups heat on NKorea, US faces questions

WASHINGTON (AP)—China's surprising suspension of North Korean coal imports puts pressure not only on Pyongyang, but also on President Donald Trump. The question for him: Should the U.S. respond with new North Korea negotiations?

Years of failed efforts to stem North Korea's nuclear and missile programs have followed a usual pattern. The United States seeks tougher action from China, the North's traditional ally. Beijing urges U.S. diplomatic engagement.

But China's move this weekend appears to change the dynamic, addressing the long-standing American demand, one Trump has vociferously repeated. If enforced, the loss of coal revenue could tighten the screws on leader Kim Jong Un after his government's acceleration of nuclear and missile tests this last year.

China rarely makes concessions for free, and will want Trump to respond in kind.

"If China is squeezing North Korea, it is for one purpose and one purpose only: to offer a cooperative gesture to the incoming Trump administration in return for an initiative on negotiations," said Stephan Haggard, a North Korea expert at the University of California, San Diego.

Beijing indicated such a

strategy was in play.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the country wants parallel negotiations on nuclear matters and a formal peace treaty to replace the armistice ending the 1950-53 Korean War—a longstanding North Korean request. Washington has said the North's nuclear weapons program must be settled first.

Meanwhile, the newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, Global Times, published a pair of editorials Wednesday calling for aid-for-disarmament talks to restart. They've been on ice since 2009.

Any breakthrough would almost surely require U.S.-Chinese cooperation. Kim has shown little interest in relinquishing his nation's nuclear deterrent as he closes in on a weapon capable of targeting mainland America, and Sino-American disputes over the best approach to dealing with the confounding North Korean leader have hamstrung international diplomatic efforts.

"We continue to urge China to exert its unique leverage as North Korea's largest trading partner to convince Pyongyang to return to serious talks on denuclearization," State Department spokeswoman Anna Richey-Allen said.

Trump has vowed to "deal

with" North Korea, without saying how. His administration is conducting a broad-ranging policy review, including how to make sanctions bite. Negotiations haven't been ruled out, said a U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to discuss internal deliberations and demanded anonymity.

China's decision on coal could change the U.S. calculus. A second administration official described it as a po-

tentially hopeful sign, though the U.S. was still gauging the significance.

North Korea's coal exports to China totaled \$1.2 billion last year, according to Chinese customs, representing more than a third of the North's total export income.

Geng, the Chinese spokesman, explained China's decision by saying the coal imports this year already "approximated" a \$400 million

annual cap set by the U.N. Security Council.

But China has exploited loopholes in the past, raising questions about alternative motivations. These could include embarrassment over the apparent assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean leader's exiled, half-brother who was spending much of his time in China. Or, a pre-emptive effort to forestall

a new U.S.-South Korean missile defense system.

Regardless of motive, "enforcement will be the key," said Joseph DeThomas, a former U.S. diplomat who advised the Obama administration on sanctions. DeThomas, now a professor at Pennsylvania State University, said China's suspension could cost Pyongyang hundreds of millions of dollars in much-needed hard currency.

CONDOLENCE REMARKS

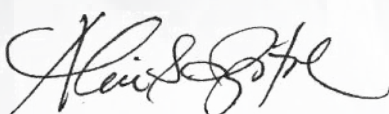
Late Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan

I am deeply touched and saddened of the untimely passing of my mentor, work partner, friend and colleague, the late **Mayor Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan**. During my tenure in the 13th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, I had the opportunity to work very closely with the late Mayor Aldan. As members of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors and Elected Municipal Councils, we had the opportunity to work diligently with our Guam, Rota, and Tinian counterparts, to find ways to minimize the burden of our citizen in shipping goods within the Mariana Islands. We've tirelessly been discussing the potential opening of his dream project "Pagan Homestead" for the residents to return to the place they call "HOME." My heart is crying knowing that his diligent effort to open for an economic prosperity for the people of the Northern Islands and the CNMI has ended early.

As a member of the 20th CNMI House of Representatives, I get phone called from the late Mayor Aldan almost on a daily basis to discuss and plan the intended Pagan Trip for our physical observation in his effort to finalize the Homestead Program for the residents, so that they can return home.

I will forever miss and cherish his almost daily phone calls to my office and his always respectful greetings, "BUENAS KIRIDA."

On behalf of the residents of Precinct IV and the members of the 20th CNMI House of Representatives, I wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Honorable Mayor Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan.



Respectfull Yours,
Rep. Alice S. Igitol



North Korea denies role in killing at Malaysia's airport

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea denied Thursday that its agents masterminded the assassination of the half brother of leader Kim Jong Un, saying a Malaysian investigation into the death of one of its nationals is full of "holes and contradictions."

The North's response came a day after Malaysian police said they were seeking two more North Koreans, including the second secretary of North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur, in connection with the Feb. 13 killing of Kim Jong Nam at a Malaysian airport.

Malaysia police have not directly pinpointed North Korea as being behind the death of Kim Jong Nam, but have already arrested a North Korean man working at a Malaysian company along with three other Southeast Asian people. They are searching for several more North Koreans.

The Korean Jurists Committee, a legal body affiliated with North Korea's rubber-

stamp parliament, said in a statement Thursday that the Malaysian investigation lacks fairness and was influenced by the South Korean government, which blames Pyongyang for the death.

The North has not acknowledged that the dead man is Kim Jong Nam. Thursday's statement described the man only as a North Korean citizen bearing a diplomatic passport.

It said that South Korea had "kicked up a fuss" and had plotted to have North Korea blamed for the killing.

"The biggest responsibility for his death rests with the government of Malaysia as the citizen of the DPRK died in its land," the statement said. The DPRK refers to the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, the country's official name.

Malaysian police said Wednesday that the two women suspected of fatally poisoning Kim Jong Nam were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals and then wipe them on his face.

World

UN: \$4.4B needed within weeks to stop hunger ‘catastrophe’

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations needs \$4.4 billion by the end of March to prevent catastrophic hunger and famine in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, yet just \$90 million has been collected so far, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday.

With over 20 million people at risk of starvation over the next six months and famine already declared in parts of South Sudan, “we are facing a tragedy,” Guterres said.

“We must avoid it becoming a catastrophe.”

Convening reporters for a briefing at the U.N. headquarters, Guterres amplified concerns that U.N. officials and humanitarian groups have expressed in recent weeks about the lack of food in the four nations. While they differ in many ways, their plights all are connected by a thread of violent conflict, Guterres noted. Drought is also a factor, particularly in Somalia.

Children’s agency UNICEF warned Tuesday that almost 1.4 million children are at “imminent risk of death” from acute malnutrition this year in the four countries. A day earlier, U.N. agencies and South Sudan’s government said more than 100,000 were experiencing famine in two counties in South Sudan, a nation where tens of thousands of people have died in a civil war that began in December 2013 and severe inflation has put food beyond the financial reach of many.



AP
In this Monday, Aug. 29, 2016 file photo, a malnourished child is weighed on a scales at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

U.N. and food organizations define famine as when more than 30 percent of children under age 5 suffer from acute malnutrition and mortality

rates are two or more deaths per 10,000 people every day, among other criteria.

Beyond the counties experiencing famine now, “millions

of people are barely surviving in the space between malnutrition and death,” Guterres said.

In Nigeria, a seven-year uprising by the Islamic extremist

group Boko Haram has killed more than 20,000 people and driven 2.6 million from their homes. A U.N. humanitarian coordinator last month said

malnutrition in the nation’s northeast is so pronounced that some adults are too weak to walk and some communities have lost all their toddlers.

Somalia, which faced famine in 2010-2011, is experiencing widespread drought and has endured years of conflict and attacks by Islamic militants of the al-Shabab group. But the country is taking steps toward having its first fully functioning central government in a quarter-century. Newly elected President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed was inaugurated Wednesday.

In Yemen, the Arab world’s poorest nation, over 7 million people need emergency food aid, yet funding shortages have forced the World Food Program to cut rations in Yemen by more than half since last year, Guterres said.

Altogether, the U.N. says humanitarian operations in the four countries will cost more than \$5.6 billion this year. Despite the funding shortfall so far, Guterres said he believes governments and other donors “will step up.”

“In our world of plenty, there is no excuse for inaction or indifference,” he said, adding that “there is no time to lose.”

Adopted kids see long-lasting effects of Romanian orphanages

LONDON (AP)—Romanian children adopted from overcrowded orphanages in the 1990s were more likely to suffer psychological problems as adults compared to other children taken in by British families, according to a decades-long study.

Doctors say the findings suggest there is a critical window when young brains develop that may determine someone’s future mental health, and that some problems might not be fixable later.

“These kids came to the U.K. in desperate conditions, very malnourished and very stunted in growth,” said Edmund Sonuga-Barke of the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London, the study’s lead author. “Despite the families’ absolute investment in the children, a good proportion of them still have significant problems as adults.”

The researchers tracked

more than 160 Romanian infants to 3-year-olds adopted by British families in the 1990s. The children were checked periodically with questionnaires, IQ tests and interviews, with the latest assessment done at ages 22 to 25.

Sonuga-Barke and colleagues looked for conditions including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, symptoms of autism including poor communication and social skills, and emotional issues such as anxiety and depression. The results from the Romanians were compared with those from 52 children adopted within the United Kingdom.

The Romanian children who spent more than six months in the institutions seemed to fare the worst. Sonuga-Barke said that children who were in the orphanages for longer than six months were seven times more likely to have ADHD

when compared to children adopted in Britain.

Of the 107 Romanians included in the latest assessment, 25 had ADHD versus one of the 38 British children. A dozen of the Romanians met the criteria for autism, compared with one of the British children.

The study was published online Wednesday in the journal, *Lancet*.

“This shows that children exposed to adversity, even for short periods, can have long-lasting effects, which is quite sobering,” said Frank Verhulst of Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, who was not part of the research. He said some of the anti-social tendencies seen in some of these children and adults might have been coping mechanisms.

“That kind of behavior was maybe necessary in surroundings where you have to

steal and fight and lie to stay alive,” he said.

The crowded and squalid conditions of the Romanian orphanages were exposed after the fall of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaseuscu in 1989. Some 100,000 children were found in the institutions; many were the result of his ban on abortion and birth control. Several thousand were later adopted by foreigners.

Charles Nelson of Harvard University, who has studied Romanian orphans adopted in the U.S., said the results have implications for the millions of children around the world living in appalling circumstances.

“We cannot let them languish in such environments for very long,” he said in an email. But he said experts should recognize that “simply placing children into good homes is not enough” to erase the effects of previous trauma.

Still, Sonuga-Barke noted

that not everyone was similarly affected.

After spending the first two and a half years of her life in a Romanian orphanage, Ionica Adriana Calvert was adopted by a British couple in North Yorkshire. Her mother described the institution as a morgue because none of the children cried.

“I was quite skinny, really dehydrated and didn’t really speak,” Calvert said.

At 28, Calvert is now a London-based actress and describes herself as “pretty normal.”

“I had a good upbringing and always loved school and had a really good circle of friends, so maybe that helped,” she said.

Calvert said her father noticed something about her at the orphanage that suggested she might be resilient.

“He said I had really sparkly eyes and smiled,” she said. “None of the other kids smiled.”

Focus

Chopped off heads, torn out hearts in brutal Brazil gang war

MANAUS, Brazil (AP)—Shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve, hundreds of inmates watched from a Manaus prison yard as the sky lit up with fireworks, paid for by the gangs that dominate the jail system.

The revelry continued well into the next day, and inmates celebrated with their wives and girlfriends. But then the guards noticed something strange: The prisoners were asking their guests to go. "That is all for today, leave now," guards heard prisoners say. The last family member left at 4:09 p.m. on New Year's Day.

What happened next would go beyond any worst-case scenario imagined by guards or authorities, unleashing a brutality that would lay bare a failed prison system and a gruesome battle between gangs for influence in Latin America's largest nation. The bloodshed would be the worst at any Brazilian prison in the past 25 years.

The Associated Press gained exclusive access to the Complexo Penitenciário Anísio Jobim. What follows is based on the facility visit, footage from inmates on their mobile phones, forensics reports obtained by the AP and more than a dozen interviews with families of victims, authorities, lawyers, prison guards, judges, the warden and investigators.

"This was unprecedented," said Carlos Procopio dos Reis, in charge of the medical forensics unit in Manaus. "I still dream that I am in a truck throwing heads for people to catch."

■■■

Known by its Portuguese acronym of Compaj, the Manaus prison compound sprawls into the Amazon jungle. Families spend at least an hour on a prison bus line to get to the isolated penitentiary. Designed for 592 inmates, it held 1,224 on New Year's Day.

Manaus, a violent and gritty northern city of 2 million people, is the jumping-off point to the Amazon and central to Northern Brazil's growing drug trade. Drugs come here from Peru and Colombia through the Solimões River and head to Belém, a port city by the Atlantic Ocean. Control of that waterway means access to the lucrative European market.

From prisons like Compaj around the nation, gang leaders oversee enormous drug businesses. For years, Brazil's two most powerful gangs had a non-aggression pact. But that truce ruptured in October, for reasons experts say are still unclear, leading to riots in several



prisons. At least 130 inmates have been killed nationwide since Jan. 1.

At the rough prison complex of Manaus, the New Year's celebrations started with a rare moment of joy, as inmates danced to funk music with their wives and girlfriends inside the concrete 20-foot-tall walls. The next day, after everyone left, the tense moment came when prisoners needed to be locked up again.

But the lockup never happened. Instead, inmates linked to the Family of the North gang surrounded a prison guard and took him hostage, with a blade to his neck. Then they announced their larger intention: To get rid of all members of the rival First Command gang, also known as PCC.

"We will kick out of this prison every single PCC brain!" a prisoner from Family of the North yelled to the Compaj cameras.

That was among the last moments captured on film by the prison security cameras. Just after, inmates started to break the cameras, as they took over the prison. "It is all ours," one of them shouted.

From then on, the only reports available came from witnesses and footage shot on mobile phones smuggled in to the prisoners.

The Family of the North moved quickly. Carrying knives, homemade shivs and even several pistols, prisoners led the first hostage into the atrium. There, they took another 14 guards and other staff hostage, including a cook and a nurse. Authorities say the inmates smuggled in their guns and blades through tunnels that enter a few areas of the prison and possibly holes in the wall.

While the main target was the rival gang, the attacking prisoners had a score to settle first with former policeman Moacir Jorge

Pessoa da Costa, who had been jailed for killing drug dealers. At 4:17 p.m., the attackers told the others that Costa would be the first to be killed.

The inmates wanted to behead and dismember him, but they struggled to break the lock on his cell. So instead, reaching through the bars, they lit mattresses in his cell on fire and burned him alive. Rapists in the same wing would later meet a similar fate.

At 4:30 p.m., Family of the North prisoners began entering an area where many members of First Command were housed. The wing was known as "the safe."

"Vai morrer!," they shouted into a cell made for eight inmates but jammed with at least 27. "You're going to die!"

■■■

The battle between Family of the North and First Command is basically over drug routes in northern Brazil. The rift escalated last year when Family of the North from the Amazon teamed up with Comando Vermelho from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second biggest gang. The evidence of that union is carved below the paint of some Compaj walls, where the acronyms FDN and CV can be seen.

On the other side of the war is the powerful First Command, based in São Paulo, Brazil's richest and most organized gang. First Command was born out of the largest prison massacre in Brazil's history, when military police killed at least 111 inmates during a 1992 rebellion. The gang has been expanding north, and now wants to take control of the Solimões River from its rivals.

Family of the North local leaders—nicknamed "Marabá," "Caroco," "Demétrio," "Garrote," "Rivellino" and "Maguila"—headed the charge at Compaj. Authorities still don't know whether the car-

nage was ordered from the outside by the gang's top leaders, who are held in high-security federal prisons far from Manaus.

Crammed into their cells, many First Command prisoners had little room to run or means to fight back. Over the next 15 minutes, several were shot, stabbed or both. The screams of horror and pain filled the lockup.

Some First Command men managed to get to the roof of their cell block to hide. At least three jumped into the gutter, spending half a day drenched in feces and urine. A group of evangelical prisoners pleaded with the killers to stop, but they were locked in their cells.

No guards tried to intervene, as several had been taken hostage. But an elite police force surrounded the prison, in an attempt to keep hundreds of inmates from escaping through a hole in one wall.

Over the next 30 minutes, with police still outside, prisoners dragged dozens of bodies into the area dubbed Pavilion 3. Then Family of the North members, and other prisoners forced to take orders, began cutting. By the time they were done, 39 heads were lined up on the floor.

They also lopped off and piled up limbs, even from bodies that had been carbonized. They cut out 13 eyes and two hearts, and used them to terrorize others. One guard was forced to eat an eyeball. A transvestite prisoner was made to take bites of a heart, throwing up as she did so.

In the meantime, prisoners used their cellphones to capture photos and video of themselves, with a Family of the North flag in the background. At one point, a headless body appears. At another, an inmate holds up the hand of a dead person and waves to the cam-

^{AP}
In this Jan. 20, 2017 file photo, inmates walk amid tension as confrontation between rival gangs continue in the Alcacuz prison in Nizea Floresta, near Natal, Brazil.

era, "He is saying bye."

But Family of the North members wanted more. They wanted the whole prison, which housed about 200 more First Command members in other areas. If they succeeded, the massacre would get even worse.

■■■

The first negotiations started at 6:30 p.m., when human rights activist and lawyer Epitácio Almeida, who knew most of the prisoners by name, talked with them through a radio device. But the talks were complicated after inmates shot a policeman in the right arm.

At 6:45 p.m., the first hostage was released for medical attention. By 9 p.m., a full battalion of riot police was firing on about 225 prisoners trying to escape, some by climbing the walls. It's unclear how many died. Families and prison guards believe there are still bodies in the surrounding woods.

Amazonas state Public Security Secretary Sérgio Fontes called in state Judge Luis Carlos Valois to mediate the crisis and gave him a bulletproof vest. At 10 p.m., the two men went past dozens of desperate family members outside the main gates to negotiate via radio.

As a sign of initial goodwill, inmates freed three hostages. Still, the standoff was far from over.

"You could cut the tension in the air with a knife," said prison guard and union leader Rocinaldo Silva. "We feared for our colleagues inside, but we also worried about other prisons that could face the same problem after hearing the news."

Fontes and Valois needed to meet with Family of the North leaders face-to-face. It took three hours, but at 1 a.m. "Marabá" and "Maguila" appeared with a list of demands.

In the meantime, the sickening stench of dozens of bodies took over the entire complex. Inmates asked for medical forensics agents to take away heads and limbs from the floor. The same carts inmates used to carry food were prepared to take remains.

At 3 a.m., after negotiations Fontes described as "surreal," an agreement was reached. The prisoners bargained for regular visitation of family and women, time outside the cell and collection of bodies by medi-

cal forensics. In exchange, they would release the remaining 12 hostages and hand over weapons and cellphones.

When Valois told the rebellion leaders that he could not stop the entry of riot police or future transfers to other prisons, the inmates got upset. So the judge and secretary made it clear that either inmates put an immediate end to the rebellion or police would do it forcefully.

At about 7 a.m., the first of 39 heads arrived at the coroner's office in downtown Manaus. In total, 57 prisoners were killed. Fearing the worst, dozens of families lined up in front of the building.

By 7:30 a.m., more than 15 hours after the rebellion began, the last hostages were released. Survivors who were hiding slowly reappeared.

■■■

The massacre has left devastated families in its wake. Maria Angelina Muniz had two sons killed at Compaj: 20-year-old Antonio and 27-year-old Antony, who had been there just 10 days. Antonio was in jail for theft and Antony for drug trafficking, but neither son had been convicted.

Muniz said her family is sparing her from the details of how they died. The caskets were closed at the funeral.

"We knew they had a debt to society, they were paying," Muniz said. "But now my life is destroyed because of this war."

Seventeen inmates have been prosecuted and sent to tight-security federal prisons. Prison director José Carvalho da Silva, who is suspected of allowing weapons and mobiles into Compaj in exchange for money, has lost his job. Silva denies wrongdoing.

Former Amazonas Prison Secretary Pedro Florencio, a respected retired federal policeman, was also sacked because the massacre happened on his watch.

"To this day, I close my eyes and see parts of bodies of inmates everywhere," Florencio said. "For me that New Year's Day will never end."

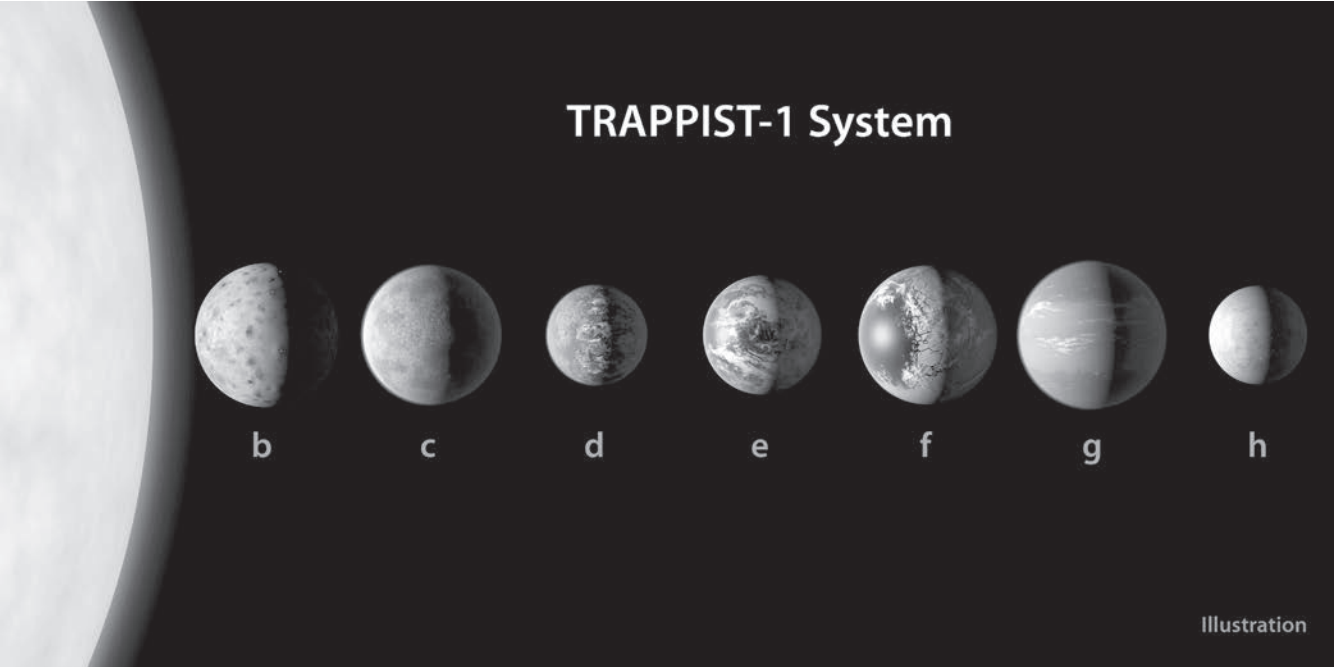
Days after the riot, smaller uprisings erupted in other prisons. And the slaughter is likely to continue.

Speaking to the AP through a human rights activist, Family of the North inmates said a recent song described what they did and promised more to come. Prisoners said they sent the lyrics to a funk artist, who put the song on YouTube.

"The strength of Family of the North is building," goes the song. "So have no doubt that the war has just begun."

Science & Technology

7 Earth-size worlds found orbiting star; could hold life



This illustration provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech shows an artist's conception of what the TRAPPIST-1 planetary system may look like, based on available data about their diameters, masses and distances from the host star. The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, where liquid water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

By MARCIA DUNN
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—For the first time, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star—and these new worlds could hold life.

This cluster of planets is less than 40 light-years away in the constellation Aquarius, according to NASA and the Belgian-led research team who announced the discovery Wednesday.

The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, the area around a star where water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these

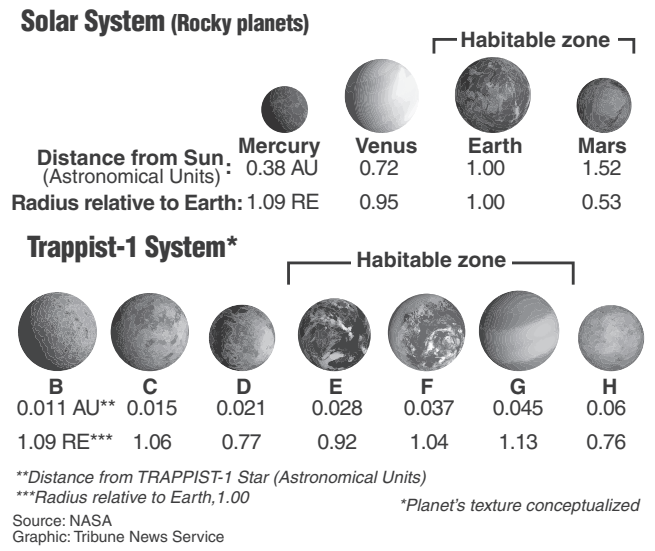
rocky, terrestrial planets could support some sort of life. But it already shows just how many Earth-size planets could be out there—especially in a star's sweet spot, ripe for extraterrestrial life. The more planets like this, the greater the potential of finding one that's truly habitable. Until now, only two or three Earth-size planets had been spotted around a star. A rocky Earth-sized world inside a star's habitable zone is considered the best candidate for finding evidence of life.

"We've made a crucial step toward finding if there is life out there," said the University of Cambridge's Amaury Triaud, one of the researchers.

The potential for more Earth-size planets in our Milky Way galaxy is mind-boggling. The history of planet-searching shows "when there's one, there's more," said Massachu-

TRAPPIST-1 system planets

40 light years away lies a tiny planetary system featuring three rocky planets located in a habitable zone where water and life could possibly exist



setts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"With this amazing system, we know that there must be many more potentially life-bearing worlds out there just waiting to be found," she said.

NASA's Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the science mission, said the discovery "gives us a hint that finding a second Earth is not just a matter of if, but when," and addresses the age-old question of "Are we alone out there?"

"We're making a step forward with this, a leap forward in fact, toward answering that question," Zurbuchen said at a news conference.

Last spring, the University of Liege's Michael Gillon and his team reported finding three planets around Trappist-1. Now the count is up to seven, and Gillon said there could be more. Their latest findings appear in the journal *Nature*.

This crowded yet compact

solar system—235 trillion miles away—is reminiscent of Jupiter and its Galilean moons, according to the researchers.

Picture this: If Trappist-1 were our sun, all seven planets would be inside Mercury's orbit. Mercury is the innermost planet of our own solar system.

The ultracool star at the heart of this system would shine 200 times dimmer than our sun, a perpetual twilight as we know it. And the star would glow red - maybe salmon-colored, the researchers speculate.

"The spectacle would be beautiful because every now and then, you would see another planet, maybe about as big as twice the moon in the sky, depending on which planet you're on and which planet you look at," Triaud said Tuesday in a teleconference with reporters.

Years are exceedingly short in this star system—the plan-

ets take just 1 ½ to 20 days to orbit Trappist-1.

The Leiden Observatory's Ignas Snellen, who was not involved in the study, is excited by the prospect of learning more about what he calls "the seven sisters of planet Earth." In a companion article in *Nature*, he said Gillon's team could have been lucky in nabbing so many terrestrial planets in one stellar swoop.

"But finding seven tran-

siting Earth-sized planets in such a small sample suggests that the solar system with its four (sub-) Earth-sized planets might be nothing out of the ordinary," Snellen wrote.

Altogether, astronomers have confirmed close to 3,600 planets outside our solar system since the 1990s, but barely four dozen are in the potential habitable zone of their stars, and of those, just 18 are approximately the size of Earth.

Giving yourself more access to your PC

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: When I try to use the Firefox browser on my Windows 8.1 PC, I get the error message, "Windows cannot access the specified device, path, or file. You may not have the appropriate permission to access the item." I have to click OK to get rid of this message, then click the Firefox icon again to reach the internet. What can I do to fix this?—Mike Malinowski, New Orleans

A: Several things can cause that error message, including troublesome Firefox add-on programs, a flaw in the Firefox installation on your PC or a Windows settings issue. Because you are able to open Firefox on the second try, I suspect either of the first two items may be causing your problem.

Try restarting Firefox in Safe Mode (see tinyurl.com/cxk67zz.) That turns off browser add-on programs (called "extensions") and other features that can cause trouble. If that causes the error message to disappear, follow the directions at tinyurl.com/njst4rg to identify the culprit.

If that doesn't work, download and install a new version of Firefox (see tinyurl.com/o3fcmqr); the installation process will also put a new Firefox shortcut icon on your PC's desktop. But first, read the suggestions in "Reinstall Firefox" on the same web page that described restarting in Safe Mode.

If that doesn't solve the problem, the cause may lie in a Windows setting called "permissions," which restricts access to critical files to help protect your PC from accidental program changes or hacker meddling.

For example, your normal PC user account (identified by your name, or the name you gave the PC when you first used it), provides only limited access to some programs. But

you can expand the scope your access (and thus eliminate the error message) by changing the permissions setting for Firefox.

To do that, right-click the Firefox shortcut icon, left-click "properties" and left-click the "security" tab. Under "group or user names" click your own name (or the name you gave the PC) and click the "edit" button beneath the list. In the next menu, click your name again, and in the second list check the "allow" box next to "full control." Click OK. For details, see tinyurl.com/zukew32.

Q: When I scan a printed document, it becomes a ".gif" image file on my PC. But I'd rather be able to save the document as a Microsoft Word file. Do I need special software for that?—Carolyn Brown, Colorado Springs, Colo.

A: Not necessarily. The simplest method is to scan the printed document and insert the resulting image file into a Word file. See tinyurl.com/j9nqmtn. The drawback is that you can't search or edit the document in Word; it remains essentially a photo of the original document.

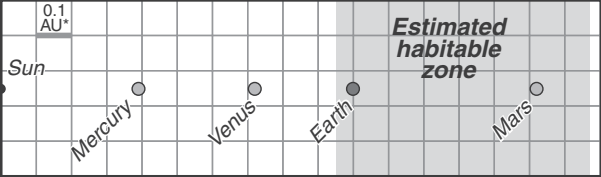
Alternatively, you can buy "optical character recognition" (OCR) software. Most of these programs can be set to convert a scanned document to a Word file that can be searched and edited. You can buy an OCR program for PC or Mac for about \$40 to \$170 (a few programs are used online for a monthly fee.) For reviews of OCR programs, and an explanation of how they work, see tinyurl.com/hazfs4f. You will find more reviews at tinyurl.com/zm3bcyk.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at *Tech Q&A*, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Habitable zones

The habitable zone, or "Goldilocks zone," is the area surrounding a star that is not too cold or too hot for liquid water to form, thus making planets within it possibly suitable for life. NASA announced Wednesday the discovery of three planets within the habitable zone of TRAPPIST-1, a star about 40 light-years from Earth.

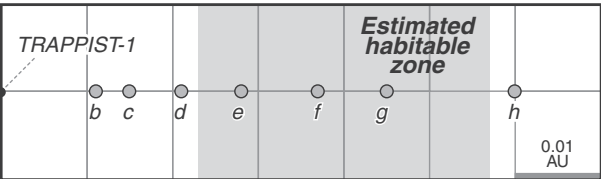
Our Solar System



*One astronomical unit (AU) is equal to the distance between the Sun and Earth. Note: Distances, but not planet sizes, are to scale.

TRAPPIST-1

TRAPPIST-1 is an ultra-cool dwarf, closer in size to Jupiter than the sun. Smaller stars usually have smaller and closer habitable zones since they put out less energy.



Source: NASA, JPL-Caltech, European Southern Observatory, "Habitable Zones Around Main-Sequence Stars: New Estimates"

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Kellogg's unveils Pop-Tarts pizza, tacos at NYC cafe

NEW YORK (AP)—Pop-Tarts might not just be for breakfast anymore. Kellogg's is giving the public a taste of some unique flavor combinations featuring the morning time treat by transforming its New York eatery into a Pop-Tarts Cafe this week. Some of the menu items include a personal Pop-Tart pizza, chili Pop-Tart fries and tarty tacos. Visitors to the Times Square restaurant can also sample milkshakes made from the pastry. The pop-up Pop-Tarts Cafe is open through Sunday.

Ohio policeman answers girl's request for math homework help

MARION, Ohio (AP)—The mother of a 10-year-old Ohio girl who messaged police on Facebook for help with math homework says the responding officer's engaging approach is what counts, though his math was a little off. Molly Draper's daughter, Lena, recently messaged Marion police about equations involving addition of numbers in parenthesis as well as multiplication. Lt. B.J. Gruber replied. He walked the fifth-grader through correctly solving one problem but slipped up on another, suggesting addition and multiplication steps in the wrong order. Even so, his effort drew wide praise when Draper shared the exchange on Facebook. She tells WCMH-TV it demonstrates her daughter's trust in police officers and good community relationship-building on their part. Gruber took the math misstep in stride, joking that he should've mentioned his favorite subject was history.

Altar in Mexico town hides illegal fuel tap

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Altars to the Virgin of Guadalupe are ubiquitous at businesses across Mexico. Now federal police say one has even been used in a gasoline smuggling racket in the central state of Puebla. Police said Tuesday that a trail of fuel leaking into the street in the town of San Martin Texmelucan led them into a lot where they found an altar to Mexico's patron saint with an unusual red hose protruding from it. As they approached, a man carrying a gun got out of a vehicle and tried to flee. Police say they eventually caught him, and five other people accused of filling up from the Virgin's tap. Thieves drill into thousands of pipelines across Mexico each

year to steal fuel, creating heavy losses for the state-owned oil company Pemex.

Lieutenant governor gets resignation letter—from husband

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey's lieutenant governor has received a letter of resignation - from her husband. Kim Guadagno's husband, Michael, is an appeals court judge. To collect his pension, he's required by law to notify Kim Guadagno in her dual role as secretary of state that he'll reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 this month. In the letter, Michael Guadagno wrote that with her term ending in January 2018 and his income "substantially reduced," it may be an "excellent opportunity for you to consider a career change to a more lucrative position."

He wrote that they could discuss it "over dinner." Kim Guadagno is running in the GOP primary to succeed Republican Gov. Chris Christie, and her husband's letter seems to take a shot at the state's current chief executive. "While we are on the subject, I take this opportunity to remind you that you receive no pension for your work as Lieutenant Governor or Secretary of State, even though, to date, you have served as acting Governor for more than five hundred days," he wrote. That refers to times when Christie was out of state, including when he ran for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination and served as chairman of the Republican Governors Association. Kim Guadagno said in a phone interview that her husband took her by surprise with the letter. "It came into the office cold," she said. "Nobody was more surprised than me that it was coming." Michael Guadagno's retirement also means he can campaign for his wife. He was unable to do so in 2009 and 2013 since he was a judge.

Cops: Philly man made up abduction story to spur theft probe

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia police say a man made up a story that he had been carjacked with a child in his vehicle because he wanted police to work more urgently to find the car. Police say 22-year-old Marcus Fletcher was working as a pizza delivery driver when he reported being robbed by two men who took his vehicle around 10:15 p.m. Monday. But Fletcher told police his 4-year-old nephew was in the car, prompting an intense

search. Police found the car a short time later with no child inside. Police say Fletcher then gave conflicting accounts of the robbery and was vague about the child's identity. Police say they're still investigating the suspected robbery. But now Fletcher is jailed on a charge of making a false report to police.

Follow that horse: German police track manure to culprit

BERLIN (AP)—Police in Bavaria say they were able to track down a man responsible


for a hit-and-run by following the hoof prints and manure left behind by the horse pulling his carriage. Police in Grafenrheinfeld said the 78-year-old man scraped a car parked at the side of the road Tuesday as he trotted through the town near Schweinfurt, the dpa news agency reported. The man continued on without reporting the accident, but an eyewitness reported the incident to police. Police say the trail of hoof prints and manure led them to the suspect's stable and he confessed to the acci-

dent when confronted. He's responsible for about 2,000 euros (\$2,100) in damage.

Mom mails garbage to college student who didn't empty trash

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania college student got a reminder to take out the trash when his mother sent him some garbage in a care package. Eighteen-year-old Connor Cox tells WHTM-TV that his mother sent two boxes to him at Westminster College in New

Wilmington last month. One box contained food and other goodies. The other contained garbage. When he called to ask whether that was a mistake, Cox's mother, Connie, told him, "No, that's the trash you were supposed to take out" during a recent visit home. Cox says he laughed hysterically at the prank, then tweeted a photo of the package. Cox has three sisters and says he has a special relationship with his mother. He says, "She knows what to say at the exact time she should say it."



ETERNAL LIFE WITH OUR CREATOR...

†JOAQUIN MANUEL VILLAGOMEZ CEPEDA

In his new life, he joins his **paternal & maternal grandparents**, Joaquin Duenas & Paulina Babauta Cepeda, Manuel Seman & Luise Pangelinan Villagomez; **cousins** Eric Michael Cepeda Lizama, Manuel Castro Villagomez, Lynricia Cepeda Lizama; **uncles** Ignacio Babauta Cepeda, Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez; **his in-law paternal & maternal grandparents** Juan Charfauros & Joaquina Pangelinan Reyes, Rufina Demapan Palacios

His life-giving love will be cherished by his **wife**, Charlotte Palacios-Reyes Cepeda; children, Erik Michael Reyes Cepeda, Mele'Ani Lynn Reyes Cepeda and Kimo Kyle Palacios Reyes

In-law Maternal Grandparent: Francisco "Tan Ko" Muna Palacios

Parents: Felix Babauta & Linda Villagomez Cepeda

In-laws: James Pangelinan & MaryAnne Palacios Reyes

Brother/sisters and children: Charles V. & Catherine Sablan-Cepeda (Cyji S. Cepeda/JJ Tenorio, Charles Pablo, Jose), Juliet Myrna C. & Earl Jameson (Jullinda), Tonia Lynn C. & Rodney R. Agulto (Andrew, Blake, Clayton, Damon)

Brother/sister in-law and children: James Palacios Reyes, Jr. (Chelsy Anne), Krystal Erin Palacios Reyes. & Marc Anthony Sarmiento Chaco

He will also be missed by his numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, godparents, and friends

Daily mass is at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am and nightly rosary is said at San Jose Church at 7:00 pm

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Responso service will be at 8:00 am followed by viewing and visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am and Internment Service will take place at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomway for your thoughts and prayers,

The Family

"They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies." - Williams Penn

Life & Style

SIS honor societies welcome new members

Saipan International School held an induction ceremony for its National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society on Feb. 22, 2017, at Charlie's Cabaret at Pacific Island Club.

Both honor societies are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students.

At SIS, both NHS and NJHS have very stringent membership requirements. To be considered, students must have at least 3.7 GPA and must go through a rigorous selection process. The candidates are evaluated on the basis of character, leadership, and service to the school and the community, and a five-member faculty council decides the admission of the candidates.

Parents, guests, and teachers assembled at the induction ceremony to welcome new members. The lighting of the white candle marked the beginning of the ceremony.

Thirteen NJHS and 17 NHS inductees entered the theater, received candles, recited the pledges, and joined the honor societies.

SIS headmaster Ron Snyder welcomed the guests and spoke briefly about the honor societies, while adviser Ingur Lee presented the candidates.

For school year 2016-17, SIS added Anastasiia Shamanaeva, Anika Snyder, Chae Lim Jung, Chae Yeon Jung, Eun Seo No, Henry Qian, Hyeong Jae Park, Jieun Yang, Judy Bang, Jung Woo Yoon, Mauryzon Tybaco, Myland Goodwin, and Yeon Kyo-ung No to NJHS and Alex Park, Ami Tsukagoshi, Andrew Hudkins, Anna Calvert, Annabelle Soledad Sablan, Chloe Kosack-Albuen, Clayton Izuka, Hyeong Joon Park, Isabel Dickinson, Jie Tian, Jun Bum Huh, Hun Hee Lee, Michael Lee, Nathania Tan, Prunella Pellegrino, Su Rui Huang, and Yu Byung Park to NHS.

To maintain membership, the new members must maintain high standards and participate in a service project. For the past years, NJHS and NHS members of SIS have adopted a yearlong schoolwide mentoring program to assist elementary and middle school students. (PR)



National Honor Society members new and old.



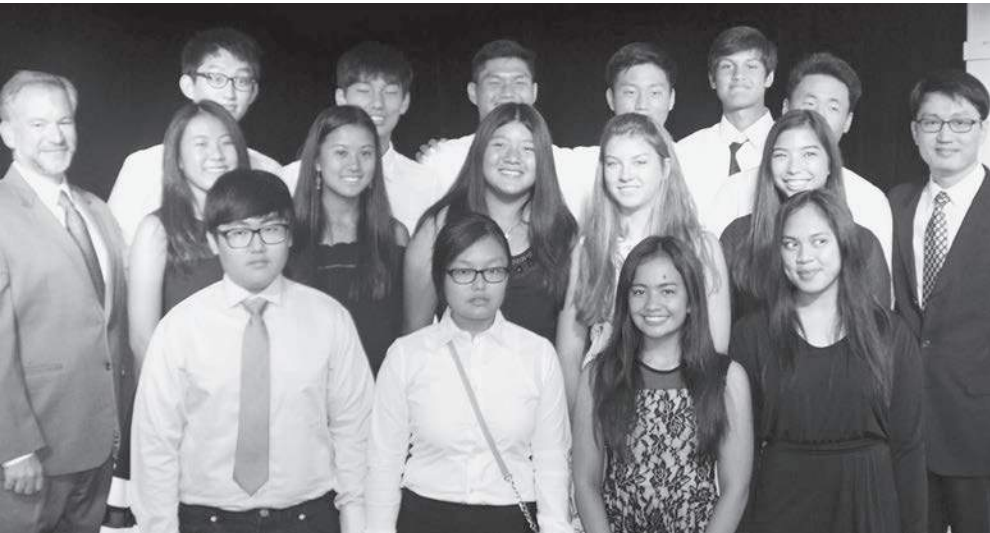
Jerry Tan congratulates Clayton Izuka.



New National Junior Honor Society members.



New honor society members Alex Park and Tania Tan.



New National Honor Society members.



New National Junior Honor Society Members Christina Kim, Judy Bang, and Jieun Yang.



New National Junior Honor Society member Anastasiia Shamanaeva signs the ledger.



National Honor Society member Maui Doculan welcomes her sister Maury Zon Tybaco into the National Junior Honor Society.



Cousins Anika Snyder and Isabel Dickinson with certificates.



New National Honor Society members hold candles at the candle lighting ceremony.

Professor has taken 'selfie' every day for last 30 years

BOSTON (AP)—Long before they were called selfies, Karl Baden snapped a simple black and white photo of himself. Then he repeated it, every day, for the next three decades.

Baden's "Every Day" project officially turns 30 on Thursday and he says he has no intention of stopping. The stark contemplation on mortality and aging has prompted some to dub the Boston College professor the unwitting "father of the selfie."

The 64-year-old Cambridge resident grumbles at comparisons to the pouty face, self-congratulatory portraits that fill Instagram and Facebook. But he recognizes the ubiquity of the "selfie"—a word that didn't become widespread until this decade—has helped raise the profile of the project, which has been exhibited in art galleries in Boston, New York City and elsewhere over the years.

"If it wasn't for the selfie craze, I'd probably be slogging along in anonymity as usual," Baden joked this week. "Which is sort of what I had expected."

What makes the project work is that it reflects a number of universal themes, from death to man's obsession with immortalizing himself in some way, said Howard Yezerski, a Boston gallery owner who has exhibited the project on two occasions.

"It's both personal and universal at the same time," he said. "He's recording a life, or at least one aspect of it that we can all relate to because we're all in same boat. We're all going to die."

Robert Mann, a New York City gallery owner that exhibited Baden's work on its 10th anniversary, says he's impressed with how Baden has stuck to his process. "Watching Karl age (grace-



AP
This panel of black and white self-made photographs provided by Karl Baden shows Baden over the last three decades beginning Feb. 23, 1987, top left, through Feb. 21, 2017, lower right.

fully) in front of the camera has been an honor," he said.

Baden quietly launched his project on Feb. 23, 1987, the day after Andy Warhol died and nearly two decades before Facebook emerged. He tries to remain faithful to that first image, posing with the same neutral facial expression and using the same 35mm camera, tripod, backdrop and lighting.

"The act itself is like brushing your teeth," he said. "I'll just take the picture and get on with the rest of my day. It's not a holy ritual or anything."

Baden has taken other pains to maintain the same aesthetic. He has consciously not grown a beard or mustache, and his hair remains simply styled.

"I have to turn all these variables into constants so that I'm not distracting from the aging process," Baden explained.

Besides mortality, Baden says the project touches on the notions of obsession, incremental change and perfection.

"As much as I try to make every picture the same, I fail every day," he said. "There's always something that's a little different, aside from the aging process."

Approaching 11,000 photos, the changes in Baden's appearance over time don't appear dramatic. But in 2001, Baden underwent chemotherapy to treat prostate cancer and became noticeably thinner.

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman is claiming she was barred from attending a performance at New York City's Lincoln Center because she wouldn't remove an anti-Trump sign affixed to the back of her jacket.

Woman wearing anti-Trump sign barred from Lincoln Center

Jenny Heinz, a longtime Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic subscriber, told The New York Times that it happened this month at David Geffen

Hall when she went to see the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

The 8-by-11-inch sign read "No! In the name of humanity we refuse to accept

a fascist America." She said she's been wearing it ever since she attended a protest outside Trump Tower in November.

"At what point does one

draw the line?" Heinz, 72, said. "We're talking about freedom of expression."

Lincoln Center officials refunded Heinz's ticket, though they declined to dis-

cuss the incident with the Times.

Heinz said the center's vice president for concert halls and operations told her during a meeting with her lawyer that signs were not allowed inside the performance halls or on the plaza.

Daughters blame mom's fiancé for breaking up her marriage

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée and I plan to be married next year. I met her after she left her husband because he had cheated on her twice. She refuses to tell her daughters that she left their dad because he cheated, so I am doomed to be the "bad guy" for eternity. They think I'm "the man who stole Mama from Daddy." Her youngest (age 25) thinks I'm the devil incarnate and is unbelievably rude to me, no matter who is around. I'm thinking marriage will be hell because she and her mother interact every day. What am I to do?

BLAMELESS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BLAMELESS: This is not a question of what "you" should do. It's a question of what you and your fiancée should do together. While it may not be necessary for her to tell her adult daughters that their father was a cheater, and that's the reason she left him, she should definitely call a family meeting and clear the air by telling them that you were not the reason the marriage ended. She should also insist that you be treated with respect—if not affection.

However, if she's unwilling to do that, then you should seriously consider calling off the wedding because a marriage under those conditions would be miserable for you. Her daughters would guarantee it.

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Another Husband in Oregon" (Sept. 3) who wondered about the "man cave" behavior he had observed in his neighbors. I can tell you from personal experience that the appeal of spending long hours working on mechanical things in a garage or workshop in total solitude is strong for many men. Regarding the guy who rebuilt an antique truck from the ground up, if you go to any car show featuring restored cars, you can't help but admire the time, energy, skill and commitment some men put into a restoration. These can be works of art.

Balance is very important to a successful marriage. Before a wife complains about too much time spent in the "cave" (and not all do complain), she should consider the upside. He is safe, he's not blowing family money in a bar or at a blackjack table, and he's not chasing other women. And he just may be creating something unique that will give him great pride and satisfaction.

PAUL IN WISCONSIN

DEAR PAUL: When I put the question about "garaged husbands" out to my readers, they were forthcoming with their views. The responses—predominantly from men, but also some of their wives—were overwhelmingly positive.

While the theory of spending too much time in the garage as a result of being "frozen out of the bedroom" was raised,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



most readers affirmed the value of having separate time from a spouse—as long as it is only "spare" time. Wives wrote that it enables them to catch up on reading, shopping, a project with the kids or grandkids, or watch a favorite TV show or movie.

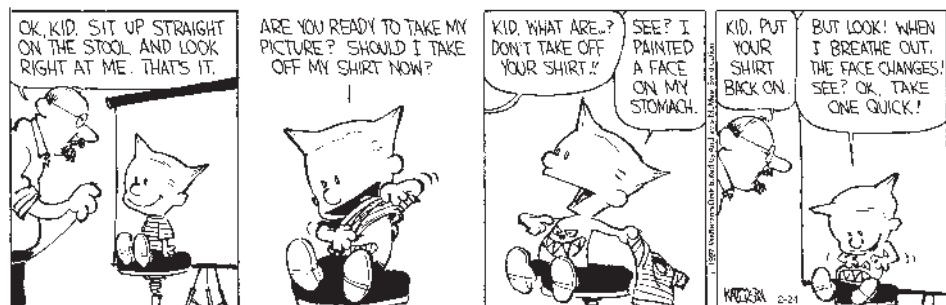
Both spouses extolled the results produced in the "cave"—restored vintage cars, woodworking items and various repairs. Visiting is permitted, and there's learning to be had for the kids. And, as a number of readers reminded us, "At least you know where he is."

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Identify points

4 Vittles

8 Mideast strip

12 Olympics chant

13 Leak slowly

14 Verbal

15 Test type

17 Diamond arbiters

18 Evening meal

19 British "Inc."

21 Triage ctrs.

22 Old-style "Listen up!"

26 Soup holders

29 Physique

30 Solo of "Star Wars"

31 Hurler Hersher

32 Vigor

33 Penny

34 Filming site

35 Pear-shaped fruit

DOWN

1 Young seals

2 Birthright

3 React in horror

4 Errand runners

5 Lion's sounds

6 Subma-chine gun

7 Hotel staffer

8 Dutch cheese

9 Branch

10 Micro-wave

11 Gore and Franken

16 Compete in a bee

20 Danson of "Cheers"

23 Ostrich kin

24 Tug

25 Tolkien creatures

26 Pear type

27 Sand-wich

28 Saturates

29 Plead

32 High-pitched flute

33 Star

35 Tail tree

36 Steep, rapid fall

38 Proverb

39 Revise

42 Drench

43 Zero, in tennis

44 Furniture brand

45 Vinyl records

46 "Uh-huh"

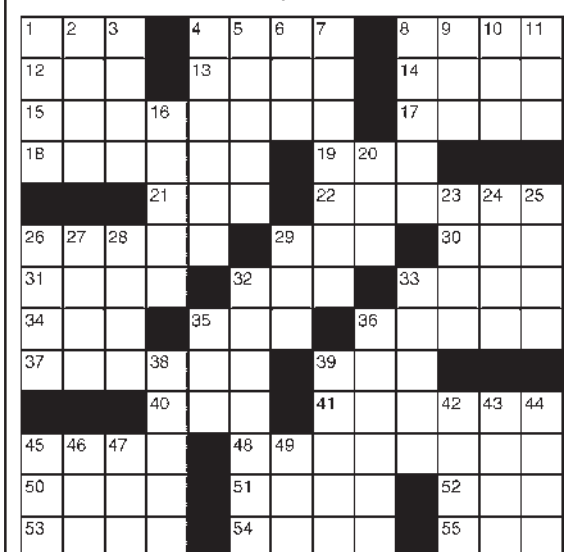
47 Gun lobby org.

49 D.C. figure

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-24

AGED BODY RUM
LANE URS A NO
DROPCLOTH IT
ABSORB ORNOT
TY BROAD
BUDS MAA FRAU
ERR ELM ORR
GLOB AMP PCPN
PADDY IF
PASTE INFERS
ASH LEMOND HOP
NEO TAR ANNA
SAT ARIA YEAR



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

O'Shea Jackson Jr., 26; Billy Zane, 51; Helen Shaver, 66; Edward James Olmos, 70.

Happy Birthday: Don't let your dreams slow you down. Taking action and putting your ideas into play will help you build confidence and discover what you can accomplish. Express and present what you have to offer and you will gain interest in what you want to do. Someone from your past will make a difference to your life and in the way you move forward. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 27, 30, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't back down. Seize the moment and you will override any negativity or opposition you face. Preparation and diplomacy will put you in an ideal position to advance personally or professionally. Romance is encouraged and a commitment can be made. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refuse to let an emotional incident hold you back. Cover up any feelings you might have and proceed diplomatically. The way you handle matters will determine the progress you make. Show restraint, honor promises and most of all, avoid confrontations. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your desire to do something that will change the fabric of a situation you face will lead to positive and productive accomplishments. Plan to celebrate with the people who encourage and inspire you to excel. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone will surprise you. Look at the pros and cons before you agree to take part in a

joint venture. Consider doing your own thing. If the cost involved is going to stretch your budget too much, take a pass. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Share your feelings and lay out your plans for the future with someone you think is special. You have everything to gain by making an effort to get ahead in life. Use your Leo charm to enlist the help of others. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take good care of your money, health and legal matters. Look out for someone you love. Children, older relatives or a beloved pet will need special attention. A domestic situation should be dealt with and stabilized quickly. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make special plans that will put you in contact with people you find stimulating. Sign up for a retreat or take a mini vacation with someone special. Romance is featured and will bring positive changes to your personal life. ★★★★★

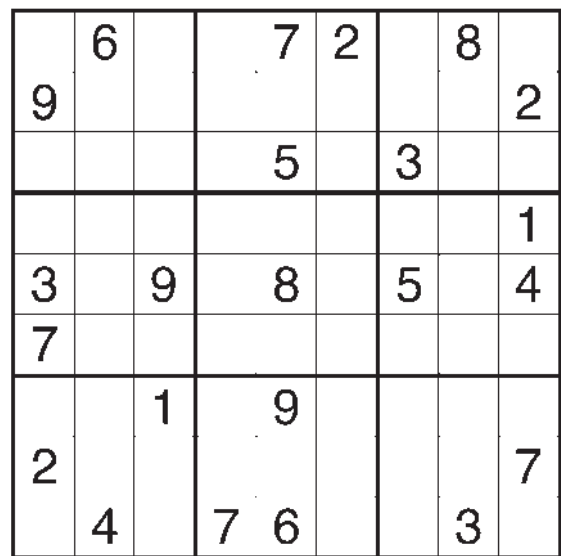
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Turn your home into your own private oasis. The changes you bring about should soothe you mentally and help you cut corners financially. Don't get into a debate about money matters. Do your best to lower your overhead. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Fix up your space to accommodate some of the plans you hope to get up and running. You can bring about change if you are smart about the way you do it. Use your intelligence and refuse to be excessive. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



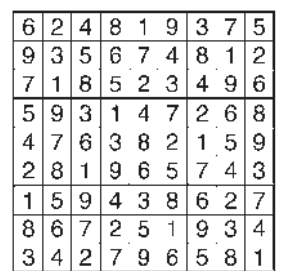
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

2/23

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be tempted by change and what others are doing. Take a moment to consider what you have and how hard you have worked. Money cannot buy love, but it can help you achieve greater stability and security. Keep your assets safe and secure. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sharing your emotions and feelings will help you gain respect and the cooperation of someone who can help you achieve a higher level of financial security. Don't rule out someone who has been there for you in the past. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of paperwork, documentation and financial matters before you start something new. It's important to have everything in order so that you are free to pursue your goals without interference. Emotional and physical improvements are encouraged. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are popular, entertaining and progressive. You are resourceful and adaptable. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

Solution: 7 letters



©2017 Andrew Volkes www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/24

Auto, Balance, Base, Battery, Bluetooth, Bracket, Burst, Capture, Case, Close Up, Cloudy, Continuous, Customize, Daylight, Drive, Dust, Engine, Exposure, Filter, Flash, Fluorescent, Focus, Frames, Images, Incandescent, Lens, Mirror, Mount, Reflex, Reticle, Scene, Sensor, Shade, Shutter, Small, Smartphone, Stills, Storage, Touch Screen, Viewfinder

Yesterday's Answer: Italy

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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3 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum salary. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

1 Welder, 3 mason, 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber & 2 Gen. maintenance & repair worker, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, 8 Houseworker, 6 Landscaper, 2 waiter/waitress, 2 Heavy equipment operator, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

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Accountant - \$6.75
Bachelor's degree in Accounting
Knowledge in Peach Tree software
5 years of experience required

(2)Maintenance Repairer - \$6.55
5 years experience in Rod/Reel and Gun repairs

Administrative Assistant - \$6.55
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration
w/ experience in bookkeeping
5 years experience required

Applicants must be able to work flexible hours and must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Please email resume to info@fishingtacklessaipan.com no later than March 01, 2017

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Painter Artist – Atleast 2 yrs.experience. Good level of physical fitness, including the ability to lift, work at heights. Have other building works related skills.

(1) Sales and Marketing Coordinator – Atleast 2 years work related experience. Highly motivated and goal oriented, with a confident, energetic, positive attitude.

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Tel. 235-1680

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 17- CHCC-13

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24, 2017 TIME: 4:30PM
MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM
CHCC CONFERENCE ROOM #3

“FOR OUTPATIENT PHARMACY –
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION - MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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Must be College Graduate with a 4-year degree & with at least 2-year experience of property management, pawnshop and real estate. Knowledgeable in real estate and drilling operations, gold acid testing and QuickBooks preferred.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST
College Graduate with a 4-year degree or with at least two year experience in Western Union, Real Estate, Pawnshop and Drilling business. Has excellent customer service and organizational skills and skilled in dealing with financial and numeric data.

WELL DRILLER
Minimum of 8 years experience of monitoring water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skill in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER Certification are required.

DRILLER HELPER
Minimum of 5 years experience of assisting in water well drilling & boring holes. Must have excellent knowledge & skills in well servicing & well drilling using different methods & other necessary drilling equipment, tools & machines. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

CONSTRUCTION LABORER
Minimum of 5 years experience of performing tasks involving physical labor in well construction & real estate development projects, specializing in water well drilling projects & commercial and residential property maintenance service. OSHA & HAZWOPER certification are required.

Alexander Incorporated
Alexander Building, Beach Road,
San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
For inquiries, please call 234-5117.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION
HOUSING CORPORATION, : NO.: 15-0203

Plaintiff, :
-v- :
The Estate of LORENZO :
ALDAN AYUYU, Deceased, :
Defendants. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 24, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 946, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 18 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4286, dated December 9, 1993, the description there being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

WANTED

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL

Area of expertise to include one or more of the following - biology, geology, natural sciences, environmental engineer. BSc or higher. Seeking experienced, motivated professionals with project management experience. Salary commensurate with experience.

Email: opp17@yahoo.com

BRUCE E. MASGA
P.O. BOX 520255, SAN JOSE VILLAGE,
TINIAN, MP 96952
TEL. NO. 1670-785-6451

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter)
of the Petition) FCD GU CIVIL
for the Change) ACTION NO.
of Name of:) 17-0078
Bruce E. Masga) NOTICE OF
Petitioner) HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220A before Honorable Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS)
HOUSING CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,) **CIVIL ACTION NO.:**
-v-) **16-0002**
IRENE DANIEL S. SIGRAH)
AND BILL J. SIGRAH,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 10, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 1368, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 874 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 011 G 25, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2568, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of February, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Customers First

TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP

is now accepting applications for experienced:

- ASSISTANT CHEF
- ASSISTANT CHEF HELPER
- BAKER
- SERVERS
- FRONT DESK CLERK
- HOUSEKEEPING PROFESSIONAL

No phone calls please, email resume to:
hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com

**Triple J offers competitive benefits
and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

WHATZIT Solution: Security blanket

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

S C U R I Y

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

AQUAVILLE INC.
(1) Operation Manager
- Can Speak Korean, Chinese, and English
- At least 4 Years Experience in Managing Marine Sports Activities
(1) Sales Advertising Agent
- At least 3 Years Experience

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-0102

Auto Marine Incorporation
(2) Commercial Diver
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

Blue Star Corporation
(1) Tour Coordinator
• Can Speak Korean and English
• At Least 3 Years Experience

MAC's Marine
(1) Maintenance Repairer
- Knowledgeable in Fiber Glassing
- At least 3 Years Experience
(2) Commercial Diver
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-6227

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3)Barber/Beautician
One to Two years experience as Barber/Beautician. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Tel. 235-7270

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
K FISHMART
(1) Fisherman

If interested, contact 989-2446 to apply.
With valid driver's license required.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MARIANAS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
ONE (1) FULL TIME CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
(Property Management and Capital Accounts)

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:
Manages all company accounting functions; maintains control over expenses, income, assets and liabilities of the company; Review and analyze financial statements to ensure adherence to the U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); Prepares financial highlights and account schedules for top management; Make recommendations to General Manager and Board of Directors based on project cost forecast/budgets and other financial information; Assists external auditors to year-end data for consolidation of Audited Financial Statements; Review and approve journal entries prepared by accounting staff; Develop and maintain internal control and effective accounting system and policies; Supervises the compilation of accounting data and preparation of financial statements; Supervises the preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual account reconciliation in accordance with management expectations and current accounting standards; Ensure compliance with taxes and licenses; Coordinates complex accounting projects and initiatives with other accounting or office staff with a high level of independence and professional discretion while maintaining accountability of all company assets; Train and supervise junior staff accountants; Prepares response to Solicitation for Offer (for prospective federal contracts) and Request for Proposal/Invitation to Bid (for local contracts); Perform other related duties as assigned or requested by Board of Directors or the General Manager.


QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor Degree in Accounting or its equivalent;
5 years accounting/finance experience;
CPA preferred but not required.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Priscilla T. Tenorio
Vice President/Human Resources
P.O. Box 500137
Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 234-6445; or by e-mail: hrd@joeten.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**FIESTA**
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN

Invites highly qualified US workers to join our Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan Team for the following vacant position:

Guest Relations Agent – Executive Floor


Responsibilities & Duties:

- Meets and greets arriving guests and bids them farewell as they leave the Resort.
- Reviews arrival list daily and assists in preparing and distributing welcome amenities.
- Attends promptly to guests' inquiries and assists them with their needs.
- Handles guest complaints and provides them with solutions to their issues or concerns.

Qualifications/Required Skills:

- High school graduate or equivalent. a few months to one year previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume hotel is preferred.
- Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous.
- Strong customer service and communication skills are essential.
- Must have good problem solving skills.
- Must be able to multitask and is a team player.
- Knowledgeable of computer applications is required.
- Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights and holidays.
- Must be permissible to serve alcoholic beverages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to fiesta_hr@fiestasaipan.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 01, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Kanoa Resort**
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:
(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or three (3) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

(8) COOK

Qualifications: High School Diploma, three years actual experience or a combination of two years of education and experience. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to stand for long periods and can lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 07, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Announcement # JVA17-010
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$20,485 - \$22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CASE WORKER I
Announcement # JVA17-011

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible for drug court assessments, case management with drug court participants and provides ongoing support to the Drug Court operation/functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct intake, assessment, establish case plan for referred participants;
- Conducts program/phase orientation and inform participants of legal requirements and implications concerning treatment;
- Tracks drug tests, group attendance, individual counseling attendance, outside groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Course) and other services;
- Provides case management;
- Coordinates/conducts individual, family and group therapeutic/educational/substance abuse treatment sessions/and crisis intervention;
- Conducts discharge planning and provides referrals for continuing treatment;
- Provides follow-up contact as needed;
- Communicates with Compliance Specialist and other Drug Court staff to secure resources for participants;
- Maintains files, records legal and case documentation in accordance with established regulatory policies and procedure;
- Attends staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;
- Attends Drug Court sessions as needed; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or closely related field. Have three (3) years experience as a counselor in substance abuse treatment programs. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$35,000 - \$40,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour

Qualifications:

- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to
PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan,
MP 96950 or contact our Office
at Tel. (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour

Qualifications:

- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to
P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950
or contact our Office at
Tel. (670) 233-1545

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour

Qualifications:

- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to
PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2)Househelper
Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(1)Automotive Body Repairer
Atleast 5 yrs. working experience. Willing to work flexible time and dependable. Hardworking and trustworthy.

(2)Trash Collector
Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD SERVICES, INC.
Tel.# 235-7011

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
dba M & R Construction

Two (2) Heavy Equipment Operator
Can operate the ff: American truck, Backhoe,
Payloader, Excavator
US citizens preferred but will welcome workers
with valid CW-1.



Please call or visit our office
Tel. # 322-1558 or 287-1698
Location: Lower Base, Saipan

Century Travel Agency, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

TRAVEL AGENT
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers. Determine destination, modes of transportation, travel dates, costs, and accommodations required. May also describe, plan, and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages. May assist in resolving clients' travel.

QUALIFICATION:
College graduate preferred with at least 5 years work-related experience in travel agencies. Proficient in the use of Amadeus system and other similar selling platforms. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Travel Agency, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm,
Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Century Travel Agency, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are welcome to apply.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

General Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 5 years of extensive work-experience as an Accountant in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm,
Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS
Must have at least 5 years work experience in telecommunication business. Knowledge and expertise in programming and repair of iDEN communication handsets. Must have experience in working on telecommunications field equipment and structures. Computer literate and must have good communication skills.

(1) SALES MANAGER
Must be a College graduate and has a minimum of 5 years experience in telecommunication business. Must have the knowledge in managing daily business operations, handling administrative, sales and treasury. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft Office applications.

(1) TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN
Must have at least 5 years work experience in the telecommunications trade. Knowledge and expertise in analyzing engineering computer, RF systems and other iDEN telecom related equipment to maintain and improve current telecommunication system. Must have good communication skills.

** Interested applicants can send resume to:
Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750, Saipan, MP 96950

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) KHMER TRANSLATOR (Full-time)

Job Purpose:
Directly assists the company with translation coordination activities and engagement with internal and external resources to support projects in the Khmer PDR.

Duties:

- Translate various documents to and from Khmero to English for use in project management and litigation.
- Identify useful information in the documents and communicate that information to internal management.
- Sort mail.
- Type memos and envelopes.
- Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping related to Lao projects.
- Scan, rename, and file Khmer documents on server.
- Performs other clerical and administrative duties, as needed

Skills/Qualifications:

- Must have fluency in Khmer and English.
- Previous translation experience is preferred.
- Excellent verbal/written communication skills.
- Great attention to detail.
- Competency with Microsoft Office required

No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Friday, March 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Century Insurance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountants (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management, payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Claims Adjuster (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. Preferably with at least 4 years of work experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in claims. Must also have knowledge in automotive damage adjusting and/or estimation. Must be hard working, self-motivated team player with excellent communication and time management skills. Computer literate on Microsoft Office and Oracle based system program. Ideal candidate should be able to evaluate, monitor and adjust claims in accordance with the Claims Processing and Settlement Procedures; attends directly to claimants and auto shops, and will work closely with agents on claims. Generates claims reports and statistics for reinsurance, inter-department and management info requirements.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, **Tuesday, March 7, 2017.**

Century Insurance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Executive Assistants (2)
Key Functions: The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.
Job Requirements: Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Operations Manager (1)
Responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.
Job Requirement: Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 6 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in business operations. Must have experience in business operation reporting, contract negotiation with suppliers and service contractors including identifying new business opportunities. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Building Cleaner (1)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills: Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina: Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

General Maintenance Workers (2)
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities and cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects, willing to work flexible hours which may include holidays and weekends.

IT - Network Administrator Assistant (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. At least 2 years of work related experience or equivalent training and skills in local and wide area networks management and administration. Must be Cisco Certified, with knowledge in system configuration, set up and troubleshooting for both hardware and software. Must have knowledge of Spiceworks. Can work flexible hours depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (1)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming or information technology and at least 3 years of progressive work-related experience in information technology. Must have strong practical knowledge in various programming languages, operating systems and relational databases management particularly in midrange Relational Database Management System (RDMS) environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (1)
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm,
Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

NBA returns for a break-neck finish to regular season

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



LeBron James, Steph Curry and the rest of the NBA have had a chance to catch their collective breath, kick their feet up for a few days and rest up after a frenetic first three-and-a-half months of the season.

The big stars had their fun in New Orleans. Those who weren't chosen for the All-Star game got away for some beach time. Coaches and executives took the time to engage in self-scouting and trade talks to figure out how they want to approach the last two months of the regular season.

When play resumes on Thursday night, a few hours after the trade deadline expires, it will be a break-neck, six-week sprint to the finish.

The eight seed in the Western Conference is up for grabs as well as pretty much every seed in the East. The jockeying for position could turn the final hours before the deadline into a frenzy.

And though the league has been idle for a week, it will not look the same when the games return.

DeMarcus Cousins moved from Sacramento to New Orleans in a stunning trade. Jeanie Buss and Magic Johnson cleaned house with the Los Angeles Lakers. The Houston Rockets have fortified their bench by adding Lou Williams and big-name stars like Jimmy Butler, Paul George

and Derrick Rose are waiting to see if they will be on the move as well.

And let's not forget Carmelo Anthony, though the Knicks' All-Star has final say-so in a move.

With all the chaos and uncertainty flying around, James said there is no reason to panic in Cleveland.

He assured Cavaliers fans before the break that the team was going to be just fine even if it wasn't able to make any more moves, but injuries to Kevin Love and J.R. Smith have given other teams in the East confidence that the No. 1 seed can be had.

"As long as I'm in the lineup, we've got a chance," James said after it was announced that Love would miss six to eight weeks to recover from knee surgery. "We're good. Kev is out for an extended period of time. JR's been out. But I'm in the lineup, obviously we've got a chance against anybody."

Hard to argue with the logic, considering James has appeared in six straight NBA Finals. But that won't stop the Celtics, Wizards and Raptors from giving chase. Boston is in second place, just two wins behind Cleveland, the surging Wizards have rocketed up the standings and are in third and the fourth-place Raptors just acquired Serge Ibaka to bolster their defense and climb back into the hunt.

Down the ladder in the East, seventh-place Chicago, eighth-place Detroit and 11th-place Charlotte are teams to



watch near the deadline. If the Bulls decide to trade Butler, a full-blown rebuild would be started in Chicago. The Pistons have floundered after a promising start to the season

and could look to move struggling point guard Reggie Jackson while the Hornets could try to acquire some help for Kemba Walker to jump back into the chase.

In the West, the top of the standings look a little more stable with the Golden State Warriors the clear favorites and third-seeded Houston with five more victories than the fourth-seeded Clippers. But five teams are within three wins of eight-seeded Denver, though the Pelicans certainly pushed themselves to the forefront by landing Cousins.

Suddenly the 11th-seeded Pelicans arguably have two of the top 10 players in the league in Cousins and Anthony Davis, giving New Orleans

Former NBA player Magic Johnson reacts as he talks with Eastern Conference LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers (23) during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017.

an enormous frontcourt that should be cause for concern all the way to the Bay Area. "We can wreak havoc on this league," Cousins said. "Will it happen overnight? Probably not, but our potential is scary."

There isn't much time to waste. New Orleans has only 26 games left before the playoffs start, giving the two former Kentucky stars less than two months to get on the same page.

It will be interesting to see how the other teams in the hunt with New Orleans react to that groundbreaking trade.

The 13th-seeded Minnesota Timberwolves have been in pursuit of veteran help for youngsters Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins in an effort to make the playoffs for the first time since 2004. But they could back off the throttle, hold tight and head for a 13th straight lottery.

Portland already made one move pointed toward the future when the Trail Blazers shipped Mason Plumlee to Denver for Jusuf Nurkic in an effort to get something for Plumlee before he left in free agency this summer and the Nuggets getting nothing in return. And Sacramento has clearly given up the postseason chase this year by moving Cousins for a package led by rookie Buddy Hield.

Wolves point guard Ricky Rubio has heard his name mentioned in deals, but he had some advice for anxious fans and players alike.

"Never stress," Rubio tweeted, "over what you can't control."

Wizards acquire Bogdanovic in trade with Nets

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Wizards added scoring punch to their bench on the eve of the trade deadline, acquiring swingman Bojan Bogdanovic from the Brooklyn Nets.

Washington also got forward Chris McCullough in the deal and sent a lottery-protected 2017 first-round pick, Marcus Thornton and Andrew Nicholson to Brooklyn. The Wizards announced the trade Wednesday night.

Bogdanovic, 27, averaged a career-high 14.2 points a game as a starter for the struggling Nets. He will add depth to the Wizards, who are in third place in the Eastern Conference.

"Bojan is a very good shooter and a talented overall scorer whose versatility gives us an added dimension as we gear up for the stretch run," general manager Ernie Grunfeld said in a statement. "He is a proven starter that will provide us an added boost off the bench and allow us to be creative with our lineups."

With the addition of Bogdanovic, a pending restricted free agent, Washington continues its push to challenge the NBA champion Cleveland Cavaliers, Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics in the East. The Wizards have won 18 of their past 21 games and surged up the standings after a slow start under new coach Scott Brooks.

"I like where we are as a team, but we're not satisfied," Brooks said. "We're not just going to be happy with what we've done in the first half. We want to come out and play good basketball throughout the season."

It's the second consecutive season the Wizards traded their first-round pick at the deadline after acquiring power forward Markieff Morris from the Phoenix Suns in 2016. Morris is a starter along with All-Star John Wall, Bradley Beal, Otto Porter and Marcin Gortat, while Bogdanovic is expected to be their sixth man.

Bogdanovic is shooting 44 percent this season, including 37

percent from 3-point range. The 2011 second-round pick led the Nets with 99 3-pointers and was second on the team in scoring.

"Shooting is such a big part of the game, even more so the last few years," Brooks said. "The 3-point ball is powerful, and when we win that game, we're hard to beat like a lot of teams are."

The 6-foot-8 Bogdanovic was the leading scorer in the Olympics, averaging 25.3 points to lead Croatia to a surprising berth in the quarterfinals as the top seed from its group.

Beal, who calls Bogdanovic "Bo," said he's excited about the acquisition.

"Strong guy, can post up, he can shoot 3s, can put the ball on the floor and can guard too and is pretty good at rebounding and back-door cutting," Beal said after practice Wednesday. "I love his aggressiveness. He plays with confidence."

The deal gives the Nets a second pick in the first round, though they will lose their

shot at what could be the No. 1 overall selection since they gave the Boston Celtics the right to swap picks this year in the deal for Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett. The Nets will get the Celtics' pick.

McCullough has spent most of the season in the NBA Development League. The 6-foot-9 forward was the Nets' first-round pick in 2015 but was delayed in starting his career as he recovered from knee surgery in his lone season at Syracuse.

Grunfeld called McCullough an "intriguing prospect" the coaching staff will continue to develop.

The trade comes on the heels of the Raptors acquiring Serge Ibaka, but Brooks said didn't increase the pressure on the Wizards to keep pace in the East.

"We want to keep charging ahead and keep climbing," Brooks said. "To win a championship, it's going to be the hardest thing that any team has to go through to win it, but it's not something you focus on day to day."

AP source: Hawks acquire Ilyasova from 76ers for Splitter

ATLANTA (AP)—A person familiar with the situation says the Atlanta Hawks have agreed to trade center Tiago Splitter to the Philadelphia 76ers for forward Ersan Ilyasova.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press on Wednesday night because the trade has not been announced.

The Hawks also will send Philadelphia a protected second-round draft pick. The 76ers have the right to swap another second-round pick.

Atlanta will receive scoring help for their front line as they attempt to improve their playoff position. They will re-

turn from the All-Star break in fifth place in the Eastern Conference, a half-game behind Toronto.

The 76ers are 13th in the East, ahead of only Orlando and Brooklyn.

It was not known if the Hawks will make another move before Thursday's trade deadline.

Ilyasova has averaged 14.8 points while starting in 40 of 53 games this season. Ilyasova, 29, spent his first six seasons with Milwaukee but has since been on the move. The trade to Atlanta is his fifth. The native of Turkey also has played for Detroit, Orlando and Oklahoma City.

'Monster' ex-USA Gymnastics doctor charged with sex assault

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan sports doctor who treated elite female U.S. gymnasts was charged Wednesday with sexually assaulting nine girls, including some too reluctant to speak up about the alleged abuse years ago because he was considered a "god."

Roughly two dozen charges were filed against Dr. Larry Nassar, the first criminal cases related to his work at Michigan State University where he was the preferred doctor for gymnasts in the region who had back or hip injuries. He's also being sued by dozens of women and girls, including 2000 Olympian Jamie Dantzscher, who described the assaults on "60 Minutes" Sunday.

"This guy is disgusting. This guy is despicable," Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette told reporters. "He is a monster."

Nassar, 53, was a doc-



Dr. Larry Nassar, center, and his attorneys, Shannon Smith and Matt Newburg, listen to Judge Donald Allen Jr. rule that Nassar, a former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics sports doctor, should stand trial on sexual assault charges during a hearing, Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, in Lansing, Mich.

County, the home of Michigan State, and the other nearby in Eaton County, where Nassar saw injured girls at Gedderts' Twisters Club, a gymnastics club.

He's accused of sticking his fingers in their vaginas, without gloves, during treatments for various injuries. Parents were asked to leave the room or Nassar used a sheet or stood in a position to block any view, police said. Two girls were under age 13, and seven were 13 to 16.

"Dr. Nassar used his status and authority to engage in horrid sexual assaults under the guise of medical procedures," Schuette said.

A girl identified as Victim B, now 21, said she was sexually assaulted by Nassar "more times than she could count," Det. Sgt. Andrea Munford wrote in an affidavit.

"Victim B stated that she and all the gymnasts trusted Nassar and that he was like a god to the gymnasts. ... Because it was happening to all of them, they thought it was normal," Munford said.

Munford said Nassar sometimes gave gifts to girls to keep their confidence, including leotards and pins from the Olympics. One victim quoted Nassar as saying, "We don't tell parents about this because they wouldn't understand," a reference to vaginal penetration.

Schuette said more charges

are coming. Michigan State University Police Chief James Dunlap said he has more than a dozen people working on the Nassar investigation.

Nassar suddenly came under intense scrutiny last summer when former gymnasts accused him of abuse, following an August report in the Indianapolis Star about how USA Gymnastics handled sexual abuse complaints against coaches and others.

Lawyers suing Michigan State on behalf of victims have accused the university of failing to do more to prevent Nassar's alleged acts. In court filings, gymnastics coach Kathie Klages is accused of downplaying complaints about him in the late 1990s. She suddenly quit last week, a day after she was suspended for defending him in front of her team.

Michigan State is conducting an internal investigation of Nassar's work.

"I am deeply troubled by the emerging details and recognize the courage it takes to come forward with information about personally traumatic events," President Lou Anna Simon said Wednesday.

Besides the new criminal cases, Nassar faces charges in two cases that were filed in 2016 and are unrelated to his work as a doctor. He's accused of possessing child pornography and molesting the daughter of family friends. He remains in jail without bond.

Dantzscher spoke to "60 Minutes" about her experiences with Nassar.

"He would put his fingers inside of me, move my leg around," she "He would tell me I was going to feel a pop and that that would put my hips back and help my back pain."

MLB players' union agrees to pitchless intentional walks



NEW YORK (AP)—There won't be any wild pitches on intentional walks this season.

The players' association has agreed to Major League Baseball's proposal to have intentional walks without pitches this year.

"It doesn't seem like that big of a deal. I know they're trying to cut out some of the fat. I'm OK with that," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

While the union has resisted many of MLB's proposed innovations, such as raising the bottom of the strike zone, installing pitch clocks and limiting trips to the mound,

players are willing to accept the intentional walk change.

"As part of a broader discussion with other moving pieces, the answer is yes," union head Tony Clark wrote Wednesday in an email to The Associated Press. "There are details, as part of that discussion, that are still being worked through, however."

The union's decision was first reported by ESPN.

"I'm OK with it. You signal. I don't think that's a big deal," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "For the most part, it's not changing the strategy, it's just kind of speeding things up. I'm good with it."

There were 932 intentional walks last year, in-

cluding 600 in the National League, where batters are walked to bring the pitcher's slot to the plate.

"You don't want to get your pitcher out of a rhythm, and when you do the intentional walk, I think you can take a pitcher out of his rhythm," Girardi said. "I've often wondered why you don't bring in your shortstop and the pitcher stand at short. Let the shortstop walk him. They're used to playing catch more like that than a pitcher is."

Agreement with the union is required for playing rules changes unless MLB gives one year advance notice, in which case it can unilaterally make alterations. Baseball

Commissioner Rob Manfred expressed hope Tuesday that ongoing talks would lead to an agreement on other changes but also said clubs would reserve the right to act unilaterally, consistent with the rule-change provision of the sport's labor contract.

Some changes with video review can be made unilaterally, such as shortening the time to make a challenge.

"I know they were thinking about putting in a 30-second (limit) for managers to make a decision," Francona said. "I actually wish they would. I think it would hustle it up and if we can't tell in 30 seconds, maybe we shouldn't be doing it anyway."



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2017 Saipan Marathon early bird deadline today

Participants registering for Saipan Marathon 2017 are reminded to register by the early bird deadline today, Feb. 24, to get the best possible price for the March 25 race. In addition, those who joined the marathon in 2016

are eligible for a \$5 discount on registration fees if they register by Friday.

So far, over 180 runners from Japan and the Marianas have registered for the race. Registration is U.S. and NMI participants is \$55 for

the 50K and marathon and \$45 for half-marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students is \$30 (student I.D. required). An additional late fee of \$10 will apply to registrations submitted

after Feb. 24. The last day to register for the event will be on March 10, 2017, at 5pm. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion. Entry forms are available at the MVA office

located on Beach Rd. in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

MVA said 2016 participants who have already registered for the 2017 race may visit the MVA office to receive a refund.

"We're looking forward to a great marathon on March 25 and encourage everyone to register by the early bird deadline, if possible," said MVA Community Projects specialist and event coordinator Ed Diaz. "Mark your calendars, and be prepared to welcome and share the road with hundreds of racers during the last three Saturdays in March!"

The MVA will also host the first Ironman Saipan 70.3 on March 11 and XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18, 2017.

The Saipan Marathon has been certified by the Interna-

tional Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) and the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS), making

it a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon. IAAF uses the measurement standards of AIMS, an association of over 400 race organizations in 100 countries and territories around the world.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on March 24, 2017, at Paseo De Marianas, without exception. The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50K and the Marathon, at 5am for the half-marathon, and at 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 8:30am at the intersection of Beach Rd. and Chalan Pale Arnold Rd.

For more information, contact Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or via email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)



Lakers can't count on celebrity to bring back glory

Chasing celebrity isn't mentioned anywhere in the first chapter of the playbook to NBA relevance.

It hasn't worked in New York, where Phil Jackson's 11 rings haven't helped turn around a franchise. There's not much evidence it will work in Los Angeles, either, where Magic Johnson is now in charge of leading the Lakers back to the promised land.

One of the greatest Lakers will try his hand at restoring the franchise to greatness, likely with an assist from Kobe Bryant's former agent. Hard to see how Magic has time for it, considering he is also the titular head of the Dodgers and is part of a group that owns the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA.

But Johnson will give it a try, and for that Lakers fans have to be happy. LA is a city of stars, and the Lakers are in desperate need of some star power to rekindle memories of championships of the past.

Unfortunately, the Lakers have been stuck in the past way too long. And no matter how glorious that past was, it has little to do with winning in the NBA today.

To do that, you need current stars—and more than just one of them. But this isn't 1988, and they're not going to come running to LA just because Magic Johnson is asking them to.

Johnson seemed to acknowledge that himself when

given the reins of one of the NBA's most prestigious franchises. He asked for time, perhaps forgetting that the reason Jeanie Buss pulled off a palace coup that ousted her own brother was that LA fans were tired of waiting for a winner.

"It's about building the winning culture again, that's what it's about now," Johnson said on the Lakers' television network, with Buss sitting next to him nodding and smiling in agreement. "Once we get that then I can make the moves necessary to put us in the place we used to be."

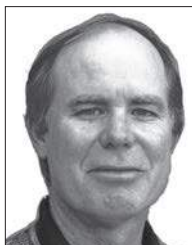
That place was once perennially at the top of the standings, which has made the recent hard times even more difficult for fans to swallow. The Lakers haven't come close to a winning season the last four years, and had the third-worst record in the NBA when Buss made a power move to replace her brother and longtime general manager Mitch Kupchak.

The decision to bring Magic in—even with his lack of NBA management experience—wasn't all that surprising, though the timing was. Two days before the trade deadline in a season already given up for lost isn't the time teams usually pick to clean out the front office.

Remember, too, that Jeanie Buss didn't speak up last year when the Lakers basically gave away a season—and a season's

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Columnist

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worth of growth for their young players—by allowing Bryant to enjoy a yearlong going away tour that did nothing to prepare the team for the future.

At least give the new administration credit for at least moving fast. The day wasn't over before the Lakers traded leading scorer Lou Williams to the Houston Rockets for Corey Brewer and a draft pick, a sign that it wouldn't be business as usual at Staples Center.

It wasn't exactly the equivalent of landing DeMarcus Cousins, a failure that may have ultimately cost Kupchak his job. But there's nothing sexy about standing pat, even though the Lakers have a nice core of young talent that on any given night seems capable of winning some games.

That a housecleaning was needed in La La Land isn't up for debate. Jim Buss himself said in 2014 that he would step down from running the team if the Lakers weren't in contention in three years.

But he probably didn't imagine his sister would take

him at his word and oust him before he could quit. He retains his ownership stake, but she retains control overall under the terms of succession laid down by Jerry Buss before he died.

So she's turning to Johnson, who is royalty in Southern California and gives the new management some instant credibility. The real key to whether it all works, though, will be the moves orchestrated by Rob Pelinka, the agent who by all accounts will be the new general manager.

Hiring Pelinka is probably bolder than hiring Johnson. But Pelinka knows his way around contracts, and he has relationships with other agents and players that could prove invaluable to landing new talent in Los Angeles.

Let Johnson be the public face. Use him to rally fans who otherwise might be thinking they should change their allegiance to the Clippers.

But for the Lakers to contend again they need more than just Magic at the top.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 32

last goal for Kanoa in the 57th minute.

In the second game, MP United edged TanHoldings, 4-2.

Maury Zon Tybaco powered MP United past TanHoldings after drilling a brace. She scored her pair of goals in consecutive fashion with the first coming in the 47th minute and the second just less than a minute later. Audrey Castro and Maaya Sato also hit the board for MP United in the team's first game of the season with the former finding the back of the net right in the second minute and the latter scoring in the 26th.

As for TanHoldings' side, Raina Avelino put her team on the board in the 29th minute, while Neriah Lumbad did the same in the 57th.

BOYS U17

TanHoldings 7, Kanoa 0

TanHoldings was victorious in the oldest age group in the youth league after whipping Kanoa at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday.

Mark Esalan anchored the easy win after firing a hat trick. His three goals were scored in succession with the first logged in the 15th minute and the last two in the 24th and 33rd. John Paul Cruz added a pair of goals with his shot in the 35th minute and 70th, while Mareko Tekopua and John Robert Tam chipped in one each.

TanHoldings took its second win in as many games for the early division lead, while Kanoa fell to a 0-0-2 win-draw-loss record.

MP United 1, Paire 0

MP United joined TanHoldings on top of the filed after outclassing Paire in the other game in the division last weekend.

Skyler Poon registered the lone goal in the match in the 29th minute to hand Paire a loss in its first assignment of the season.

CO-ED U12

Kanoa-1 12, Kanoa-2 1

Kanoa-1 showed no love lost to sister team Kanoa-2 as the former coasted to its second win in as many games.

Daniel Mark Pablo fired five goals to lead Kanoa-1's domination of Kanoa-2. Sean Gil chipped in three, while Jim Kurt Maniago, Markus Toves, John Mark Anastacio, and Joe Emil Antonio made one apiece. Angel Olaes posted the lone goal for Kanoa-2, which dropped to a 0-0-2 card.

TanHoldings 7, MP United 5

In the other co-ed U12 division game, TanHoldings pulled off an upset over spring season defending champion MP United.

Anthon John Bergancia had a hat trick to help TanHoldings gain its first win after bowing to Kanoa-1 during the league's opening week. Angelo Pulido and Joseph Mark Roque contributed one goal apiece for TanHoldings, while the names of the two other scorers on the team were not indicated in the game's official match report.

Andrew Chung made four goals on a losing effort for MP United, which drew one goal from Dev Bachani.

GSM

From Page 32

seven runs in the last two innings to foil the former's hopes for a comeback. Omar got three RBIs in the last two innings and finished with five RBIs and three runs on a 2-for-6 performance at the plate. Brel went 3-for-5 and tallied four runs and three RBIs. Dela Cruz was only 1-for-4, but got four RBIs and two runs, while Yamada also gave

GSM four RBIs and two runs off his 3-for-5 showing at the plate. Peter Tenorio and Diego Camacho handed GSM four and three runs, respectively.

In the D-9ers and Falcons game, Roke Tenorio, Jeremy Atalig, John Acosta, and pitcher M.J. Sakisat delivered in the homestretch to lift their former to the close win.

Clinging to a 4-3 lead after six complete innings, Roke stole home, Acosta made an RBI double, and Atalig had

an RBI single at the bottom of the seventh to give the D-9ers cushion. The Falcons failed to score at the top of the seventh, but got two runs off the D-9ers' errors in the eighth to stay in the game. After yielding two runs, Sakisat and Acosta teamed up for a 1-3 putout play for the Falcons third out in the penultimate inning. Sakisat earlier struck out leadoff batter J.J. Lifofoi for the first out, while Franklin Lifofoi was beaten to second

for out No. 2.

The D-9ers pitcher, who worked the mound without relief, again partnered with Acosta for another 1-3 play on J.R. Suel at the start of the ninth before allowing a single to Franklin Lifofoi and a fielder's choice on Henry Iguel. Franklin and Iguel went on to reach third and second base, respectively, but were left stranded there as Sakisat struck out J.J. Lifofoi and Franklin Lieto to end the game.

CAROL

From Page 32

onship play, Pacific Oceania is already assured of a slot to the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Final Qualifying Zone, which will also be played in India in April. Pacific Oceania and the winner of the Vietnam-Sri Lanka tussle will join New Zealand, Australia, and 12 oth-

er countries from Asia in the final qualifier.

Going into the finals, Lee has yet to drop a single set with four of her five wins recorded in less than an hour. The singles triumph against Goh was her second shutout victory, as she earlier blanked the Philippines' Gennifer Ly-sandra Pagente in pool play. Pacific Oceania swept the pool

play, crushing the Philippines, Tajikistan, and Vietnam to move into the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the CNMI's Robbie Schorr earned his first victory in the Junior Davis Cup.

Schorr whipped Tajikistan's Khushbakht Karimov, 6-0, 6-0. The Commonwealth junior player wrapped up the one-sided match after only 30 minutes to secure the victory

for Pacific Oceania in the consolation round that would determine the No. 9 to 14 finishers in the pre-qualifier. In the earlier singles game, Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy topped Issamjon Sharifov, 6-0, 6-4. The doubles game in the Pacific Oceania-Tajikistan match was not played.

With the victory, Schorr and company advanced against Sri Lanka.

Coca-Cola/Subway, Best Deal/RNV rout opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Coca-Cola/Subway and Best Deal/RNV Constructors demolished their respective foes in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Best Deal/RNV crushed GPPC, 84-64, in a battle between two surging teams in first game, while Coca-Cola/Subway routed Star Water in the second match, 97-63.

Best Deal/RNV extended its winning run to four after a 0-3 start, while snapping GPPC's three-game winning streak. Best Deal/RNV held GPPC to 7 points apiece in the first and third quarters for the double-digit victory.

Only Aba Tagle and Gary Norial scored in GPPC's sluggish start, while Best Deal/RNV had seven players making it to the board in the first quarter for their 21-7 lead.

GPPC then brought the deficit down to 6 at the break, 32-38, behind the combined 17 points of Randy Mungcal and Alex Ocampo. However, GPPC fired blanks in the third quarter anew with Mungcal held to one field goal and Ocampo going scoreless, while Best Deal/RNV had its most output (28) in a quarter to regain the sizeable lead, 66-39, going into the fourth quarter.

It was cruise control from thereon for Best Deal/RNV as it moved to third spot in the team standings in Pool A behind the unbeaten TanHold-

ings (5-0) and Joeten (5-1).

In Pool B, Coca-Cola/Subway climbed up to No. 2 as it improved to a 5-1 record after whipping Star Water (0-2).

Michael Cabanas and Edward Armia teamed up in Coca-Cola/Subway's lopsided win with the former scoring 34 points and the latter chipping in 29.

Cabanas started slow, making only a field goal in the first canto, which ended with Coca-Cola/Subway ahead by only 6, 20-14. However the moment he found his rhythm in the second quarter, Cabanas and Armia alternately hit baskets for Coca-Cola/Subway to open a 46-32 advantage at the break. The duo scored all but two of Coca-Cola/Subway's 26 points in the second frame and they kept going in the final half to widen the gap.

First Game

Best Deal/RNV 84 – Moritos 24, R. Rueda 21, Alfonso 10, Odicka 9, Jumaquio 9, Baul 4, Corong 4, J. Rueda 3, Cayan 2.

GPPC 65 – Mungcal 19, Alex Ocampo 12, Norial 9, Sampang 9, A. Tagle 9, Rudy Sampang 9, Santos 4, Bandojo 2, Lagura 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-7, 38-32, 66-39, 84-65.

Second Game

Coca-Cola/Subway 97 – Cabanas 34, Armia 29, Francisco 14, Ilo 10, Estoque 3, Fejeran 2, Iba 2.

Star Water 63 – Gallardo 26, Quiban 12, Dizon 10, Santos 9, Brel 6.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 46-32, 72-50, 97-63.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coca-Cola/Subway's Bernard Estoque pulls up for a jumper and is fouled by Star Water's Edward Cabiles during the third quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Redemption win for Steele, Cruz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



After falling short in their respective title bids in the singles competition of the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic, Richard Steele and Bobby Cruz redeemed themselves in the mixed-up doubles event following a straight sets win over Daniel Kang and Dong Min Lee last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Steele earlier bowed to Kang in their morning match for the boys U12 singles title and returned to the hard court in the afternoon to pair with Cruz in beating their top-ranked foes in the finals, 6-4, 6-2. The mixed-up doubles title tiff was also Cruz's second game for the day as he played in the men's open singles finals opposite Moris Villanueva in the morning and lost, 2-6, 4-6.

The second-ranked Cruz and Steele moved into the title match after sweeping No. 5 seed Andy Kim and Colin Ramsey in the semis last Sunday, 6-1, 6-2. Lee and Kang, on the other hand, needed a super-tiebreaker third set before advancing to the finals and beating Isabel Heras and Hyunmin Cho, 4-6, 6-3, 10-6.

Meanwhile, Sean Lee, Ken Song, Maria Gregoire, and Brian Wessel completed the roster of winners in the singles event of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned tournament.

Wessel bagged the men's over 40 singles crown after posting a 2-0 record in the round-robin contest. He first outclassed Mihai Leta last Sunday, 6-1, 6-3, and then completed his perfect run in the division last Monday following a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Gary Ramsey. Leta went on to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mixed-up doubles champion Bobby Cruz, left, and Richard Steele, center, pose for a photo with 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic tournament director Jeff Race after receiving their awards last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club court.

take the runner-up honors as he earlier topped Ramsey, 6-3, 6-4, during their last Saturday duel.

Sean Lee also earned a 2-0 mark en route to winning the boys U14 singles championship. The No. 1 seed drew a bye in the opening round and automatically moved into the

semis where he defeated Andy Kim, 6-0, 6-1. Then in the finals, Sean shut down Eugene Park. Park marched into the finals after pulling off an upset over the second-ranked Sam Ryu, 6-2, 6-4.

Ryu rounded out the Top 3 in the boys U14 singles following his 2-6, 7-6, 10-4 vic-

tory over Kim. In another consolation game, Rintaro Miyawaki clinched fifth place after defeating Cho, 6-4, 6-0.

In the boys U16 singles, Song outlasted Vincent Tudela in an extended finale. Tudela drew first blood, escaping with a 7-5 win in the opening set, but the No. 2 seed faltered in his upset bid against the top-ranked Song after the latter swept the last two, 6-3, 10-7.

Before their tough title encounter, both Song and Tudela took the long route to the finals. Song slipped past Steven Goodwin in a super-tiebreaker third set, 4-6, 6-4, 10-6, while Tudela rallied against Tony Kim, 2-6, 6-1, 10-2. Tony moved into the semis after blanking Andy Cho, while Tudela followed suit as he routed Jeffrey Seo at the bottom half of the draw, 6-0, 6-1. At the top half, Song crushed Allan Lee, 6-0, 6-0, to set up a semis showdown against Goodwin, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over Ken Xue.

In the head-to-head girls U14 singles division, Gregoire swept Riko Ojima, 6-1, 6-2.

MGA February Ace Sunday



The Marianas Golf Association will have its February Ace Tournament this Sunday with a 10am tee time on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

MGA welcomes all golfers wanting to join a group of golfers who love to play on a regular basis and make new friends. Please visit the Marianas Golf Association Facebook page or contact tournament director, Calvin Yamagishi on 287-8894 for more information.

Founded in 2013, MGA is open to golfers of all skill levels. Although competitions are held for members, handicaps are used to keep the competitions fair for everyone. Food and drink are always provided after the event while scores are calculated.

Meanwhile, MGA has its new set of board of directors for 2017 with J.J. Atalig leading the group as president. Also elected were David Largent (vice president), Geri Dela Cruz (secretary), James Benavente (treasurer), Calvin Yamagishi (tournament director), and Jay Muna (handi-

cap coordinator).

The group also held its 2016 Ace of Aces with October winner Peter Tenorio topping the season-ending competition at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Laolao Bay Golf and Resort. Other monthly winners last season were Joey Dela Cruz (January), Jenny Hegland (February), Muna (March), Chandler DeLoatch (April), David Largent (May), Seung Woo Kang (June), Atalig (July), Yamagishi (August), Benavente (September), Tony Guerrero (November), and Jack Salas (December). (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



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for a break-
neck finish to
regular season**

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**'Monster' ex-
USA Gymnastics
doctor charged
with sex assault**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's FC pounces on Matansa



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Shirley's Football Club showed no signs of rust in its first game of the season following a 6-1 rout of Matansa FC in the girls U15 division of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.

Valeria Myers and Katrina Costales scored two goals apiece for Shirley's, which has dominated the division in the last two years and four seasons. Jerlyn Castillo and Lillian Podziewski added one goal apiece for the defending champion's lopsided win, while Barbara Peteru gained the lone goal for Matansa.

In the two other matches in the division, Kanoa FC and MP United FC also prevailed in their season debuts.

Kanoa played in the curtain-raiser and shut down Paire, 3-0. Paulyn Grace Joyce knocked down back-to-back goals for Kanoa, making her first in the 26th minute and the second in the 38th. Ericka Santiago logged the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Shirley's FC goalie picks up the ball during the first half of their girls U15 division game against Matansa in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here returning a shot during an ITF Juniors event on Saipan last year, powered Pacific Oceania to a finals stint in the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Zone in New Delhi, India.

Carol tows Pacific Oceania to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee towed Pacific Oceania to the finals of the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Zone after another dominating performance in the Singles 1 event yesterday at the R.K Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhi, India

Lee clobbered Singapore's Joelle Goh, 6-0, 6-0, dispatching her foe in just 45 minutes to seal the semis vic-

tory for Pacific Oceania. Earlier in the Singles 2 match, Tahiti's Naia Guitton rallied past Tammy Tan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

With Pacific Oceania's sweep of the two singles contests, the lone doubles match became no-bearing. Lee was scheduled to partner with Samoa's Eleanor Schuster in the doubles, but results of their match against Tan and Tessa Wong have yet to be posted at the event's website as of press time.

Today, Lee and company will play in the finals against the winner of the other semis game between Pool B top finisher Sri Lanka and Pool A runner-up Vietnam. Thuy Thanh Truc Tran



gave Vietnam a 1-0 lead in the semis after working out a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 triumph over Savini Jayasuriya in the Singles 2. In the other singles match, Ngoc Minh Phuong Nguyen was slated to duel

Anila Seneviratne and the former and Tran were also assigned to compete in the doubles against Senevirante and Sathi Siyara Silva Mirissage yesterday.

Regardless of the results of Lee and her teammates' games in the champi-

See CAROL on Page 30

GSM, D-9ers win season debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go See Mark and Saipan Stevedore D-9ers made it to the win column of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League just in their first try after downing their respective opponents at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The D-9ers edged the Natibu Sports Association Falcons, 7-5, last Wednesday night, while GSM defeated Titanium last Tuesday, 21-13, to duplicate the debut victory of opening day winner BSI Aces.

GSM was on target early, combining for 12 runs in the second and third inning to take a five-run advantage and kept its safe distance after playing steady in the last two. Jesse

Brel and Ricardo Dela Cruz each hit two-RBI singles at the top of the second inning to jump-start GSM's offense, while Shane Yamada and designated hitter Tyrone Omar also contributed two RBIs apiece in the third.

Titanium used two pitchers early in the game with Joseph Palacios starting off for the team, but getting relieved by Steven Cabrera midway in the third. Titanium then called Brian Camacho to take the mound in the fourth and the switch somehow stopped GSM's surge as the eventual winning team was held to two runs in the next four innings.

Titanium managed to move within four after playing better defense, 9-13, however GSM countered with

See GSM on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Go See Mark's Shane Yamada throws to warm up for their game against Titanium in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.